GOKULAM

Rs.6/-
APRIL 2003

The monthly magazine for children

"THE CHALLENGER"

"அம்மா, பால் உடம்புக்கு
ரொம்ப நல்லது.
இன்னும் கொஞ்சம்
கிடைக்குமா ?"
அறிமுகம் புதிய கேட்பரி டிலைட். இதில் அற்புதமான கேட்பரி சாக்லேட்டின் சுவை அடங்கியுள்ளது. ஒரு கிளாஸ் சூடான அல்லது குளிர்ந்த பாலில் இரண்டு முழு டீஸ்பூன் அளவு போட்டு கலக்குங்கள். பிறகு பாருங்கள் அதிசயத்தை ! பால் என்றாலே முகம் களிக்கும் உங்கள் குழந்தை பாலுக்கு ஃபிரெண்டாகி விடும்.
Cadbury
Delite
நான் பாலை ருசிகரமாக்க விரும்புகிறேன்.
Delite
பெயர்:
முகவரி :
அன்புள்ள சீடெயிலரே, கேட்பரி டிலைட் ஒரு ஜார் வாங்கும் வாடிக்கையாளரிடமிருந்து முழுமையாக பூர்த்தி செய்யப்பட்ட கூப்பனை பெற்றுக்கொண்டு, தயவு செய்து அவருக்கு ரூ. 6/-தள்ளுபடி தரவும். நீங்கள் கேட்பரி டிஸ்ட்ரிபியூட்டரிடம் இந்த கூப்பனை கொடுத்து ரூ. 6/-ம் ஹேண்ட்லிங் சார்ஜாக 50 பைசாவும் பெற்றுக் கொள்ளுங்கள்.
இச்சலுகை தமிழ்நாட்டில் தேர்ந்தெடுத்த நகரங்களில் மட்டுமே. வரல் 30, 2003 வரையே இச்சலுகை சரக்கு உள்ள வரையே.
கேட்பரி இண்டியா லிமிடெட்டிற்கு, கேட்பரி டிலைட் பேக்குகளை சீடெயிலரிடமிருந்து வாங்கியதற்கான அத்தாட்சியை சரிபார்க்க உரிமை உண்டு.

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children. — William Canton

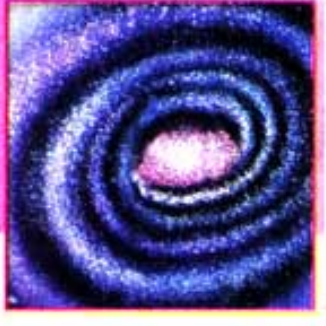
GOKULAM

APRIL 2003
Vol.XV, No.10

4 "The Challenger"

25 On a mission

39 Speed up; Win a prize



72 Amazing Astro Facts

HIGHLIGHTS

Mythology : the swayamwara 12

Quiz Contest : world cup 2003 16

Crossword: epic of Ramayana 20

In the wild: interestingly informative 32

Jokes : very funny! 36

Serial : the man with no name 47

A true story : Matabele gold 62

Harry Potter: debates continue 74

COMING UP IN MAY (HOLIDAY SPECIAL) : 8

* a 'highly innovative' uncle Disney at work

A NOTE FROM UNCLE DISNEY

Dear children,

The year was 1993. I was given an opportunity by Gokulam to create a comic strip which would run for a year. The outcome - Appu & Kuku.

Appu and Kuku were born keeping in mind you kids. Appu was built on two circles and Kuku on two ovals. I kept it simple because I wanted you to keep Appu & Kuku going in your drawing notebooks. The idea of letting you kids colour the last frame of the story, was to make the comic strip informative, imaginative, innovative and interactive.

A year became ten and now, after 10 years, I am officially concluding the comic strip Appu & Kuku. I must thank you young readers of Gokulam who overwhelmingly supported the little elephant and his canary friend.

Though Appu & Kuku are bidding adieu, my association with you kids will go on. As you all know, variety is THE SPICE of life. I shall be in touch with you through a different comic strip and with a host of new characters whom I'll introduce in another section of this issue. Lots of love to you all...

j.disney

THE ANGELS OF LEARNING

Poem

The angel of Mathematics spoke first
Don't worry! I'll quench your thirst.
The numbers are a vast and wide sea
You'll discover, only if you practice me!

The Social angel big and proud,
Said - I'll tell you clear and loud
The secret of one's success lies
In knowing important economic ties.

Science came forward and boasted
Make sure you know me from toe to head
From the Solar system and the earth
To the secrets of chemicals that take birth.

Big and bright, English came ahead
She said - Without me you're dead.
What'll you do if you can't communicate
And express your ideas big and great?

The Goddess of knowledge came around and said
Are your heads made of lead?
Don't you understand that together
You'll make this world much better?

The angels hung their heads in shame
Realised each other's strength and fame
And, that they living in unity and peace
Would help every child work with more ease.

- Archana Balakrishnan, Std. X,
Padma Seshadri BBSSS,
Chennai.

INDIA'S NO.1

Racing is an extremely challenging sport - it is a challenge for the mind, the body, the nerves...

Racing requires intense concentration and perfect physical fitness.

Born on January 14, 1977, our young hero ***Kumar Ram Narain Karthikeyan*** *has faced these challenges with grit and has emerged very successful even in the international racing scene.*

Narain is currently racing in the Telefonica World Series. International motorsport magazines are known to have attributed his achievements to his 'exceptional talent', 'fantastic speed', 'extreme car control' and 'unbeatable style'.

Today, this 'fastest Indian in the world' is on his way to becoming the first Indian to enter the world of Formula -1. ***He is now all 'geared-up' to set challenges for his counterparts.***

We at Gokulam wish this 'challenger' great success in the years to come. We take this opportunity to thank him for going on this 'sizzling ride' with his young fans.

"THE CHALLENGER"

• **P. Mohan Kumar, Hosur**

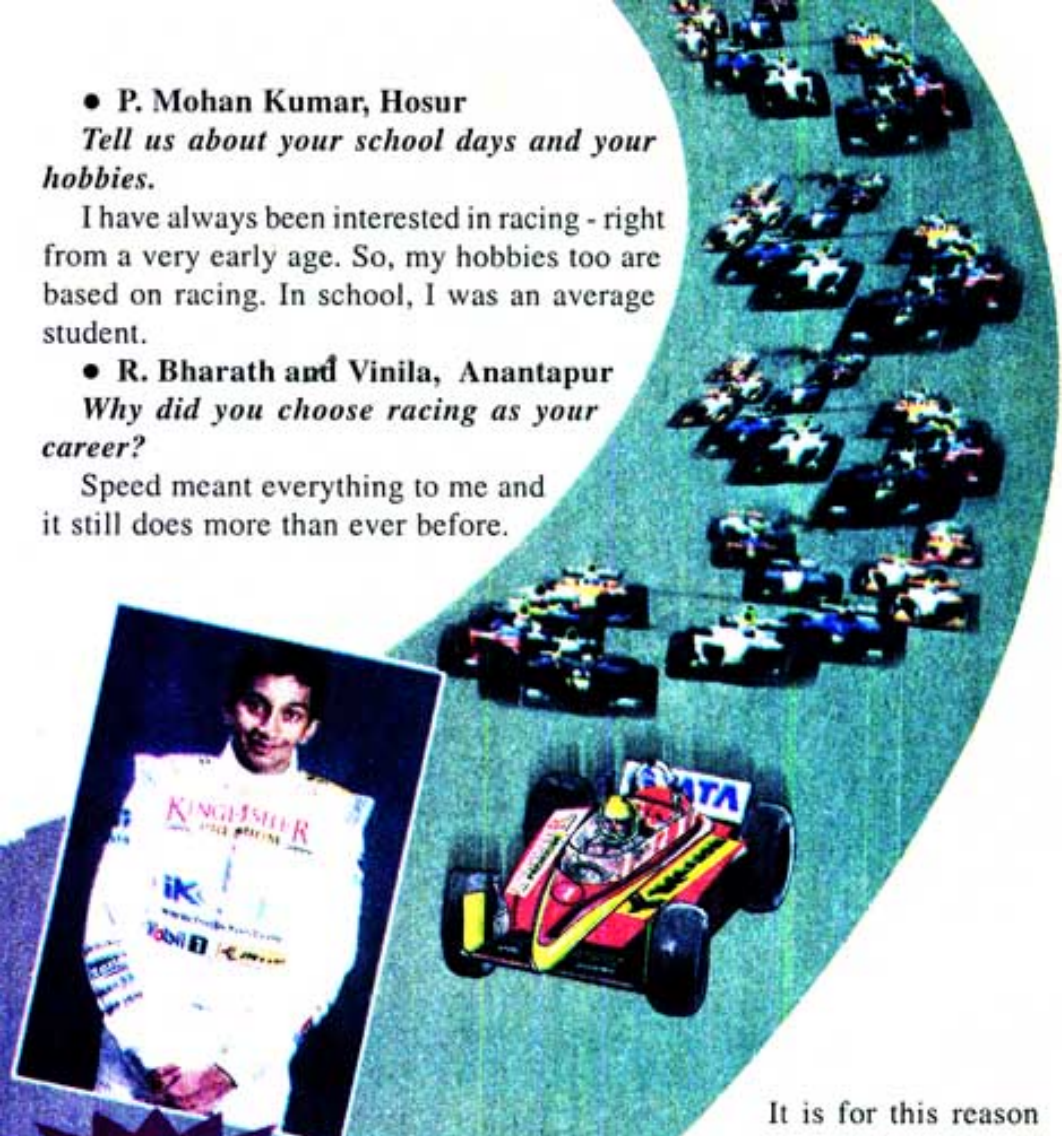
Tell us about your school days and your hobbies.

I have always been interested in racing - right from a very early age. So, my hobbies too are based on racing. In school, I was an average student.

• **R. Bharath and Vinila, Anantapur**

Why did you choose racing as your career?

Speed meant everything to me and it still does more than ever before.



Star Rendezvous

It is for this reason that I chose racing as my career.

• **K. Rajeswari, Mumbai**

Was becoming a star in motor - car racing your ambition right from childhood?

Yes. It all began when I was eight years old.

• **M.C. Murali Balaji, Chennai**

Who taught you how to drive?

Nobody really 'taught' me. It all came naturally.

- **Mohan Arvind, Chennai**

How did you feel when you raced for the first time? How is it different now?

Initially I used to feel a bit tense and nervous. Now I have gained more experience and hence I keep calm and feel more confident and mature. The will to win is at its height now.

- **Harini, Chennai**

Hadn't you been a racer, what would you have been?

Racing was and continues to be my passion. I just can't imagine myself being anything else.

- **Varsha Rao, Mysore**

What is the secret of your success?

Dedication and single mindedness.

- **Srisha Joshi, Thane**

What according to you, are the most essential factors to reach your goal?

Talent first. Sincere, hard and dedicated work next and last but not the least, sponsorship!

- **P. Kiran Kumar, Hyderabad**

Up to what extent is self-confidence important for competing in any field.

Confidence is 'the' most important factor that is required for competing in any field. However, it is important to realise that there is a fine line between being confident and over - confident.

- **K. Balaji, Chennai**

This question is my life! Your ambition is my ambition. How can I become an ace racer like you?

You must begin with Go-Karting. When you do, then you get a 'feel' of the whole thing.

- **S. Swetha, Chennai**

You are a great racer. Which Formula 1 racer is your role model?

Ayoten Senna and Michael Schumacher.

- **C.K. Prabu Sankar, Coimbatore**

What is your opinion about Michael Schumacher?

Michael Schumacher is undoubtedly the best that has ever been.

- **Naveen, Trichy**

Why don't you participate in

Formula 1 races?

Participating in Formula 1 races is not as easy as that. There are several other factors that are involved. My aim is to be there one day.

• **P. Uthara Priyadharshini, Thane**

There is a popular belief that car racing is a 'rich man's sport'. What do you think?

It probably used to be a 'rich man's sport'. I don't believe its like that any more. In one sense, it has become more affordable now because many corporates have come into the picture as sponsors.

• **Sushmita, Bangalore**

Has motor - car racing gained popularity in India and has it improved?

Yes, most certainly. Infact, F - 1 racing is next only to cricket in terms of its popularity.

• **B.M. Pruthvi, Davangere**

Please tell us what is meant by Formula 1 racing.

For any sport there is something that is right on top. Formula 1 is the pinnacle of this sport 'racing'.

• **P. Vignesh, Tirupur**

Which is the happiest day in your life?

The day when I drove the F -1 car for the first time.

• **B.M.Jeethendra, Davengere**

Why is the wheel surface of racing cars flat?

The flat wheel surface helps to get maximum grip on a dry surface.

• **J.C. Shankar Balajee, Madurai**

***Who encouraged you* to involve yourself in racing?**

Nobody really 'encouraged' me. I simply loved the sport. Ofcourse, the fact that my father used to be a great Rally driver in India helped a lot. I was exposed to the sport even when I was very young and this set the tempo.

• **Shaunak Vilas Deo, Dombivili**

What are your favourite sports other than racing?

Tennis and mountain climbing.

• **P. Muruganathan, Mumbai**

What was the reason for having chosen such a challenging sport?

My thirst or passion for speed and to be honest, the financial package received if you are successful.

Cover illustration : **Jeyaraj**

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

MAY 2003

tons of knowledge...
tins of recipes...
heaps of jokes...
hoards of riddles...
packs of games...
parcels of puzzles...
LOADS & LOADS OF FUN!

KIDNAPPED!

Picture Story Serial by MUTHU

ACTIVITY

make your own 'FLIP BOOK'

INDOOR GAME

CONDUCT YOUR OWN QUIZ

FREE BOOKLET WITH EVERY ISSUE

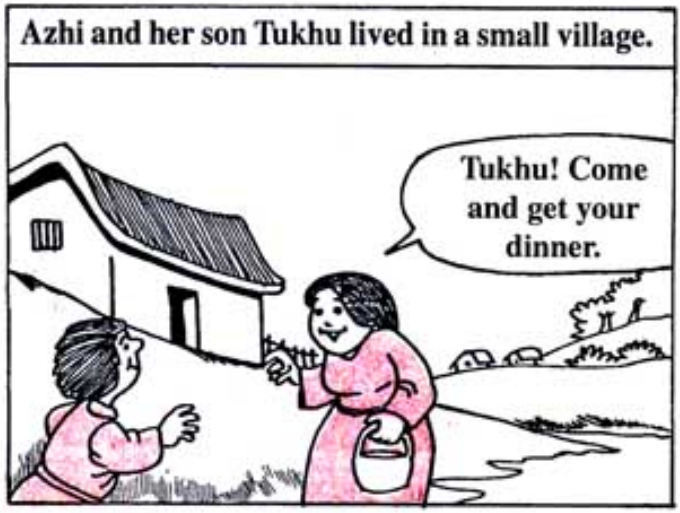
a treasure trove of questions and answers

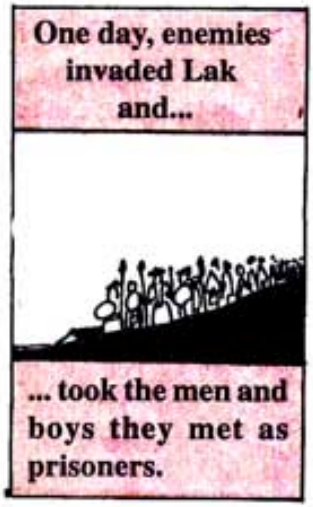
Uncle DISNEY'S NEW COMIC STRIP

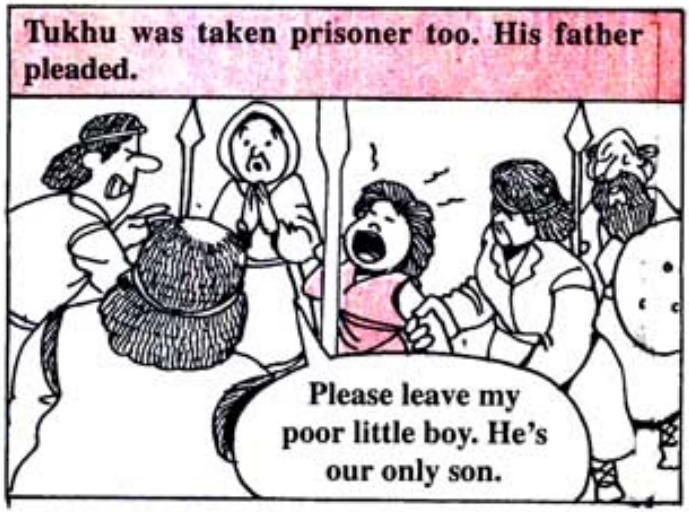
TUKHU BECOMES A HERO

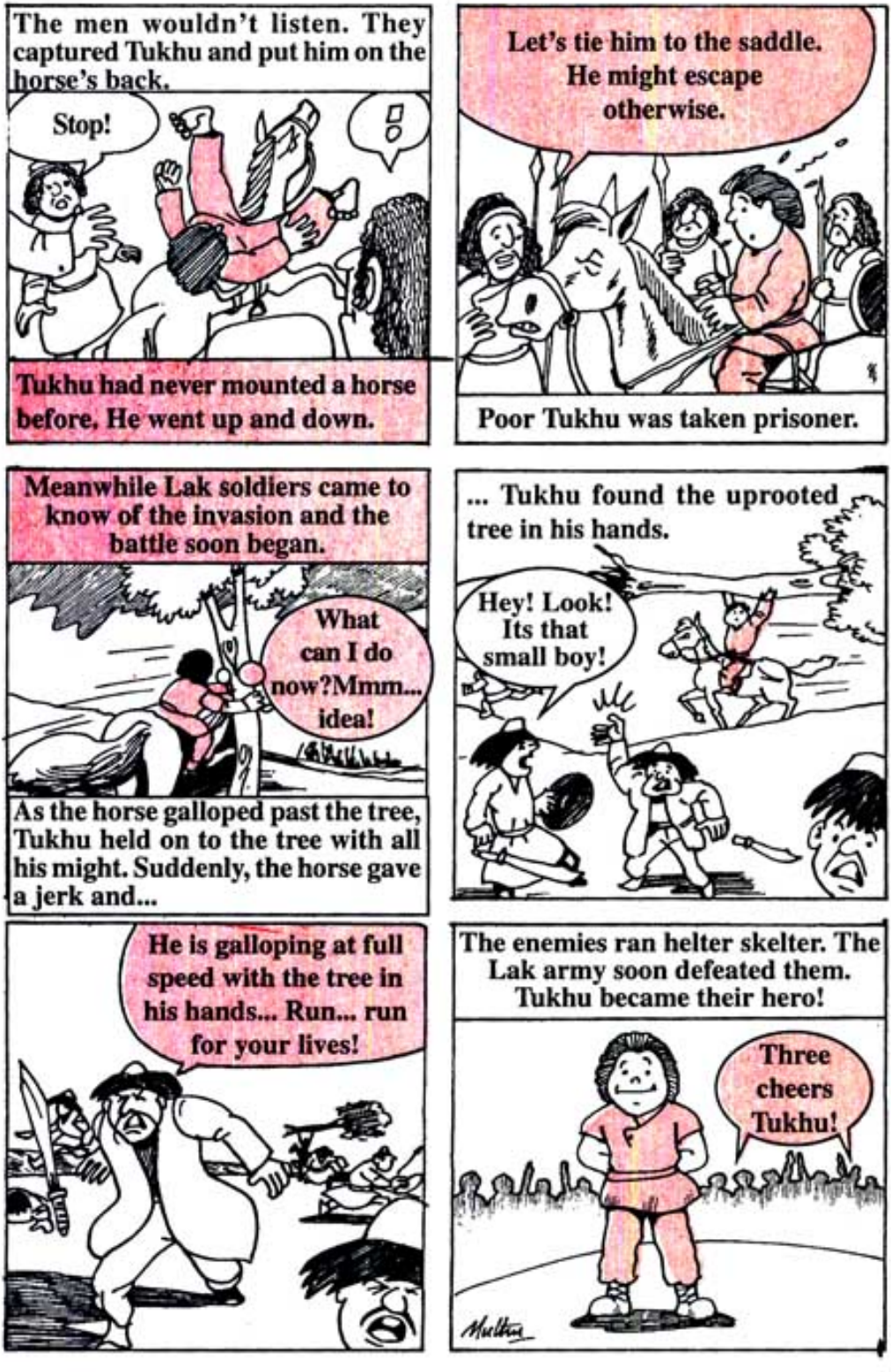
(A folk tale from Lak)

Story & Pictures : Muthu








The men wouldn't listen. They captured Tukhu and put him on the horse's back.
Stop!
!
Tukhu had never mounted a horse before. He went up and down.
Let's tie him to the saddle. He might escape otherwise.
Poor Tukhu was taken prisoner.
Meanwhile Lak soldiers came to know of the invasion and the battle soon began.
What can I do now?Mmm... idea!
As the horse galloped past the tree, Tukhu held on to the tree with all his might. Suddenly, the horse gave a jerk and...
... Tukhu found the uprooted tree in his hands.
Hey! Look! Its that small boy!
He is galloping at full speed with the tree in his hands... Run... run for your lives!
The enemies ran helter skelter. The Lak army soon defeated them. Tukhu became their hero!
Three cheers Tukhu!

SWAYAMWARA

Harischandra, the son of Trisanku of the Solar Dynasty, ruled the kingdom of Kosala. He was an able and just ruler. His subjects adored him.

Once, a few holy men came to Harischandra's palace. One of them said, "Harischandra, we have visited many holy places and travelled across many kingdoms in Bharata Varsha. During our travel, we happened to visit the Kingdom of Kannosi. The King of Kannosi has a beautiful daughter named Chandramathi whose swayamwara* has been announced. Chandramathi is the most suitable wife for you. You must win her hand!" The holy men blessed the king and departed.

** an occasion where the princess is given an opportunity to choose her husband.*

On his way to Kannosi Harischandra came across a chariot and a horse made of rock. Surprised and confused, the king went closer, only to find them turn into a golden chariot and a golden hued horse!

Goddess Devi appeared before the king and blessed him. "Harischandra, it is your virtuosity that enabled you to see the chariot and the horse. No one has been able to see it so far. You are blessed with divine vision. Take this chariot and the horse with you to Kannosi. May you succeed in your endeavour." So saying, the goddess disappeared.

Harischandra entered the city of Kannosi riding the golden chariot drawn by the divine horse. It was a grand occasion. The city wore a festive look. Several holy men were present. The kings of all fifty four kingdoms had assembled at the swayamwara hall. They waited eagerly for Chandramathi to enter.

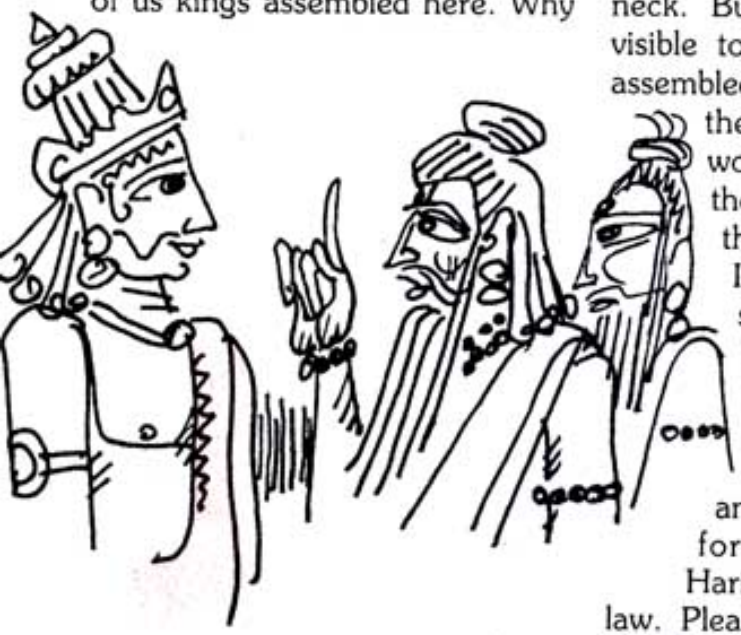
Chandramathi looked stunningly beautiful as she entered the hall escorted by two of her closest friends. She held a colourful garland in her hand as she gracefully walked past the rows of handsome princes.

According to custom, Chandramathi's friend introduced the princes one by one and dwelt on their valour, strength and virtuosity. They walked past several princes gathered, before they stood in front of Harischandra.

"Here is the king of Kosala," began the friend, "Harischandra is his name and he hails from the most pious Solar Dynasty. He is not only handsome and courageous but is also well known for his virtuosity..."

Chandramathi stood shy and smiling. She looked even more beautiful. Harischandra was stunned but not for long. He was startled on observing something strange. He stood up with indignation and spoke with anger as the other kings listened in silence.

Harischandra addressed the king, Chandramathi's father. "How could you insult so many of us kings assembled here. Why



have you arranged a swayamwara for a princess who is already married? She wears a 'mangal sutra★' around her neck. What have we the kings of great kingdoms done to you to face this insult? I demand you to give an explanation."

★ *a sacred thread tied around the neck of the bride by the bridegroom, as a symbol of wedlock.*

Much to the amazement of all assembled, the king of Kannosi rejoiced on hearing Harischandra speak. The king then addressed the gathering.

"Dear friends! Please listen to what I have to say. Chandramathi, my most beloved daughter, was born by the blessing of Lord Shiva and Parvathi. She was born with this 'mangal sutra' around her neck. But ofcourse, it was invisible to the eyes of all of us assembled. It was also predicted then, that Chandramathi would marry one who had the divine vision to spot the 'mangal sutra'. When I arranged for this swayamwara, I was very hopeful of finding that one person. My hopes have been fulfilled by the grace of Lord Shiva and Parvathi. I am indeed fortunate to have you, Harischandra, as my son-in-law. Please accept my daughter Chandramathi in marriage. She is extremely fortunate and blessed too."

So saying, the king gave Chandramathi's hand in Harischandra's and blessed the couple. The wedding took place in great pomp and splendour, in the presence ot all the other kings.

Thus Chandramathi married Harischandra.

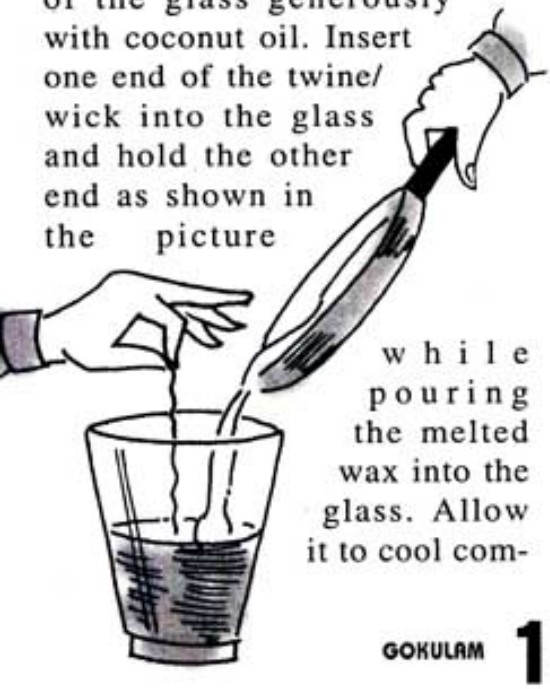
- Anandhi Ramachandran

COLOURFUL CANDLES

Step-1: Get ready with a glass, some wax, some coconut oil, some wick / twine and a few coloured wax crayons.

Step - 2: Put the wax into a pan and heat it. Wait until it melts. Now put the coloured crayons into it. Allow it to melt and wait till it cools down a bit. (Be careful not to let it solidify again)

Step - 3: Grease the inside of the glass generously with coconut oil. Insert one end of the twine/ wick into the glass and hold the other end as shown in the picture while pouring the melted wax into the glass. Allow it to cool completely.



Step 4: When the wax has cooled down completely, turn the glass upside down and tap gently on its back.

You will find the coloured candle slip out of the glass. You can make several such candles of different shapes and gift them to your friends and relatives for various occasions.

- Neelima Chakraborty,
Std XI,
St. Josephs HS,
Darjiling

SPORTS TALK

How closely did you follow this world cup 2003?

Answer the questions given below. Write the answer beneath each question with a ball point pen and send in your answers to reach us on or before **15.04.2003.** Ten lucky winners selected by a draw of lots from the all-correct entries, will each receive **a (quiz) book on World Cup Cricket.**

1. Who was Canada's coach?

_____

2. Who scored the fastest hundred? (an all time record as of now)

_____

3. Name the bowlers who took a hat-trick.

_____

4. Who was adjudged 'man of the match' in the Australia vs New Zealand super six clash?

_____

5. Who got the best bowling figures in a match?

_____

6. Which batsman got the highest individual score?

_____

7. Who kept wickets for Holland?

_____

8. At which venue and where was the finals held?

_____

9. Whose record did Sachin surpass when he became the highest run getter in the history of world cup cricket?

_____

10. Who scored the maximum number of runs in a single over?

_____

11. How many matches did Pakistan win in the first round before they returned home?

_____

12. Name the three Obuya's who play for Kenya.

_____

Name : _____

Class : _____

School : _____

Residential Address :

_____

_____

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Pin : _____

CUT HERE AND MAIL

2003

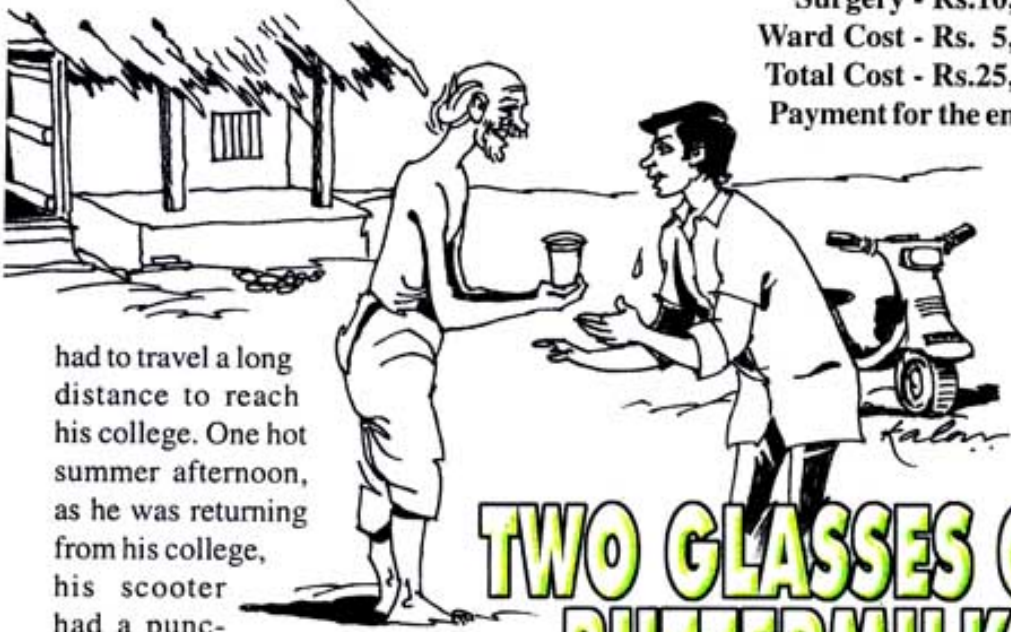
WORLD CUP QUIZ

Mail to :
'World Cup Quiz'
Editor,
Gokulam,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal,
Chennai - 600 097.

TWO GLASSES OF BUTTERMILK

This story was told to me by my grandmother. I liked it very much and I want to share it with the other readers...

Ram was a college student doing medicine. He was very good and kind natured. He was always the topper in his class. He lived in a small town and had to travel a long distance to reach his college. One hot summer afternoon, as he was returning from his college, his scooter had a puncture. He had to drag it all the way home. He felt very thirsty and approached a small hut. An old man welcomed him. When Ram asked for some water he went in and brought a glass of buttermilk instead. Ram thanked him very much and asked for another glass of water. The old man brought Ram another glass of buttermilk. Ram thanked the old man and left.



After a few years Ram became a cardiologist in 'S.S. Hospitals'. One day a patient came to him with severe chest pain. Ram examined him and said that an open heart surgery had to be performed immediately. The old man was admitted and the surgery performed successfully. After a few days he became normal and was ready to be discharged. He was given a bill that read :

Medicines - Rs.10,000
Surgery - Rs.10,000
Ward Cost - Rs. 5,000
Total Cost - Rs.25,000
Payment for the entire bill thankfully received from two glasses of buttermilk.

The old man did not understand anything. He went to Ram and asked for an explanation. Ram re-called the past and explained all to the old man, who was deeply touched.

- S.Shilpa, Age 12,
Avila Convent M.H.S.S.,
Coimbatore.

HOW IT ALL CAME ABOUT...

LET THE BODY BE BROUGHT....

'Habeas Corpus' is the law which in Britain, U.S.A. and several other countries guarantees that no person can be held in prison without a trial.

This law came into being as a consequence to a wild party held in 1621, by a notorious lady Alice Robinson in her London home. When a constable called to complain, Alice swore at him so violently that he arrested her. The local Justice of Peace put her in a house of correction.

When Alice was finally brought for trial, her conditions and her stories caused a public uproar. She had been put on a punishment diet of just black bread and water. She was forced to sleep on bare earth. She had been stripped and given fifty lashes. Last but not least, she was pregnant!

The public anger was so great that Alice was acquitted, the constable who arrested her without a warrant was sent to a prison and the Justice of Peace was severely reprimanded.

Alice's case and other similar cases speeded up the passing of the 'Habeas Corpus Act' in 1679. This act gives an important guarantee for the liberty of a person. Habeas Corpus is part of the Latin phrase 'Habeas Corpus ad subjiciendum' which means 'let the body be brought before the judge.' In effect, a writ of Habeas Corpus is an order to produce the imprisoned person in court at once.

THE SECRET LOST AND FOUND

The secret of crystal clear glass was locked up for most of the 16th century on the island of Murano, in Venice. However, the early 17th century Venetians had sold the secret abroad. The precious secret was the use of manganese in addition to the skill of blowing the molten glass.

Other countries - especially Bohemia - started setting up rival

industries, in glass making. Soon they outstripped the Venetians with better techniques. By the 18th century, Venetian glass industry had fallen so far behind that, a man decided to get back the secret and the lost glory of Venice.

In 1730, a Venetian named Briate, disguised himself and worked for three years in a Bohemian glass industry to regain the secret his city had lost.

A GIANT OR A BOOK OF MAPS?

Atlas was a giant, a Titan and an early Greek God. He was one of the twelve Titans who ruled a golden age on earth. The Titans rebelled against the classic Gods and were defeated in the battle by the Gods of Olympus, under the command of Zeus. Atlas was punished for the part he played in the rebellion and was condemned to carry the Heavens on his shoulders.

Later when he refused hospitality to the Greek hero Perseus, the Greek hero showed Atlas the head of Gorgon Medusa. Who ever saw the head of Medusa would turn into stone. Atlas turned into a stone which became the Atlas Mountains of the North West Africa. The sea nearby is also called

The Atlantic Ocean.

Medieval map collectors used to bind their collection of maps keeping the image of Atlas as the front piece. Thus Atlas came to represent a book of maps - giving his name its modern meaning and usage.

- Smt. K.R. Visalakshi, Coimbatore

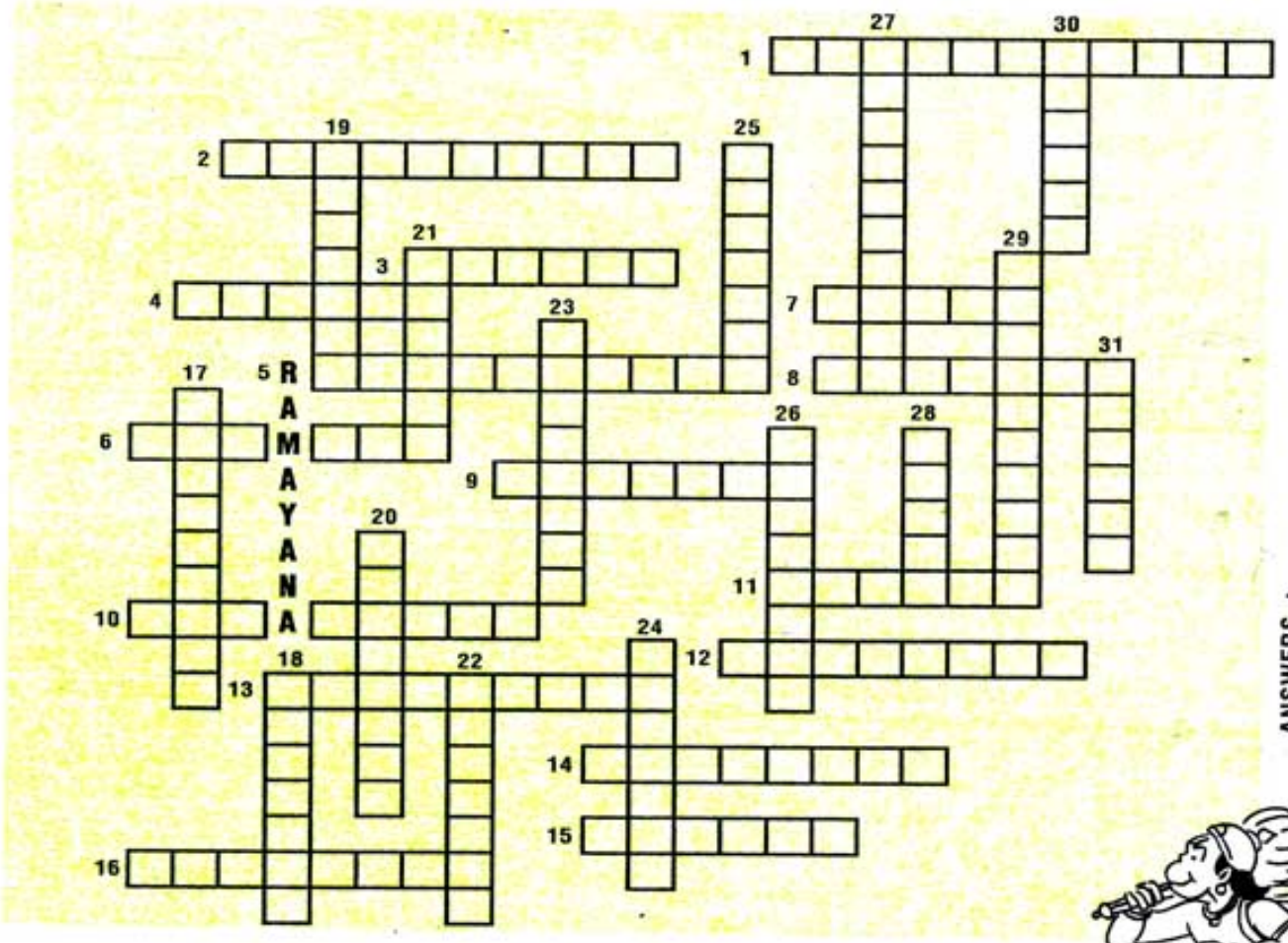
How much do you know about The epic of RAMAYANA?

Horizontal

1. The great sage who insisted on taking young Rama and Lakshmana to protect his yagna.
2. The giant brother of Raavana who slept for 6 months in a year.
3. Father of Sita.
4. Wife of Lakshmana.
5. Hero of this epic.
6. Sage, who is the author of this epic.
7. Kingdom of Raavana.
8. Raavana's uncle who took the form of a golden deer to attract Sita.
9. Dasaratha's second wife.
10. Rama's father.
11. Devotee of Rama who gave him fruits that she had already tasted.
12. Family sage of the royal dynasty.
13. Last brother of Rama.
14. Head of the monkey clan.
15. Great bird who gave up his life trying to save Sita from Raavana.
16. Rama was exiled for _____ years.

Vertical

17. Closest brother to Rama.
18. Youngest wife of Dasaratha.
19. Sita's city.
20. Son of Kaikeyi.
21. Another name for Seetha.
22. Villain of the epic, King of Lanka.
23. Rama's mother.
24. Greatest devotee of Rama and Sita.
25. Dasaratha was the king of _____.
26. Raavana's good brother who joined Rama.
27. Raavana's sister whose nose Lakshmana cut.
28. The epic is a story of a prince from the _____ dynasty.
29. Place where the exiled royals lived in the forest.
30. Kaikeyi's matron, the lady responsible for the turn of events.
31. Woman who was freed from her curse when Rama's feet touched the stone.



ANSWERS :

1.Vishwamitra 2.Kumbakarna 3.Janaka 4.Urmila 5. Ramachandra 6.Valmiki 7.Lanka 8.Maricha 9.Kaikeyi 10.Dasaratha 11.Sabari 12.Vasishta 13.Shatrugna 14.Sugreeva 15.Jatayu 16.Fourteen 17.Lakshmana 18.Sumitra 19.Mithila 20.Bharatha 21.Janaki 22.Raavana 23.Kausalya 24.Hanuman 25.Ayodhya 26.Vibishan 27.Soorpanaka 28.Surya 29.Panchavati 30.Mantra 31.Akalya

- Banurekha Raghuraman, Age 17, St. Thomas Aquinas H.S., Canada

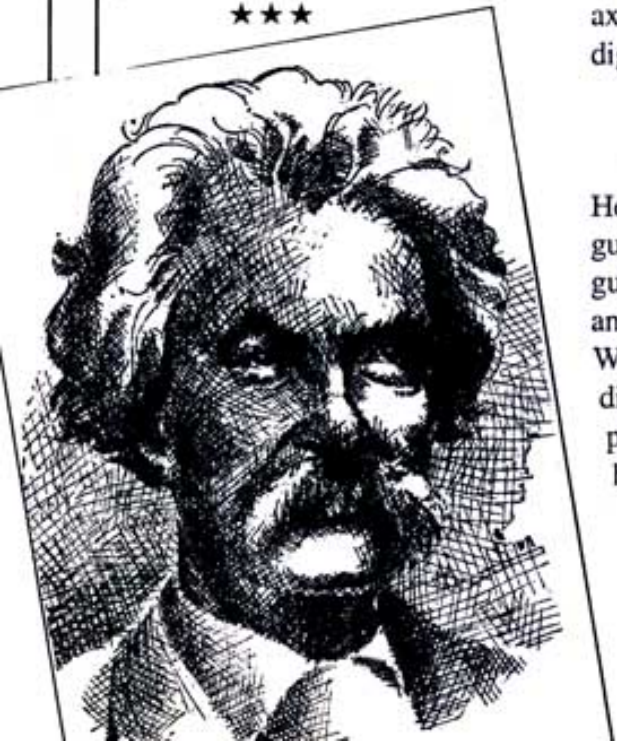
PERSONALITY

ANECDOTES FROM THE LIFE OF MARK TWAIN

Mark Twain was one of the greatest writers and humorists of the world. Some of his well-known works include "The adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "Huckleberry Finn". Here are a few anecdotes from the life of this extremely quick witted person.

Mark Twain once visited the studio of one of his friends who was a painter. He began touching his paintings. The friend shouted, "Do not touch them; the paintings are wet". Mark Twain replied, "Do not worry, I have put on my gloves!"

★★★



Mark Twain once listened to a sermon in a church. After it was completed, Twain approached the preacher and asked him, "Sir, is this sermon entirely your own?"

The preacher replied, "Yes, why?" Twain said, "But I saw every word of your sermon in a book".

The shocked preacher challenged Twain to produce the book. Twain immediately produced a dictionary!

★★★

Mark Twain once saw a book in his neighbour's house and asked him whether he could take it home for reading.

The neighbour arrogantly replied, "I never lend my books to anyone. If you are so eager, then read it in my house."

A few days later, the neighbour visited Twain and asked him to lend his pick-axe. Twain seized the opportunity and retorted, "I never lend my pick-axe to anyone. If you are so eager then dig my garden and go home."

★★★

Once Mark Twain went to a party. Here, many of the guests began to argue on the topic of life and death. Some guests felt that all men go to Heaven and some others felt that all go to hell. When one lady asked Twain why he did not participate in the argument, he punned, "Madame, I dare not do so. I have friends on both sides."

- Sneh Pradhan,
Std.VIII, M.H.M.S.,
Kolkata.

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED...

THE (REAL) VISIT!

Having decided to fool my sister, I ran into our room and declared in all excitement (I was pretending ofcourse!) that our aunt was visiting us for a couple of days and that she was arriving on that very day!

My sister, too engrossed in her book, hardly paid any attention at first. (Nor did she remember it was April Fool's Day!)

"Mom has asked us to clean our room and get it all done for auntie" I said as I began to pick up my clothes that were lying all over! My sister was quite convinced on watching me work like clockwork (normally I never bother about cleaning you see!). When I saw her make the bed and dust the shelves, I rejoiced that she had fallen into the trap. I was so excited that my plan had worked!

At lunch time, we heard the calling bell ring. Within a few seconds, I heard my sister exclaim in joy and happiness.

"Sneha, look who's here!" she screamed at the top of her voice.

Wondering who it could be, I walked up to the front door.

Hey Presto! It was my aunt! Although it took me a few seconds to digest this sheer co-incidence,

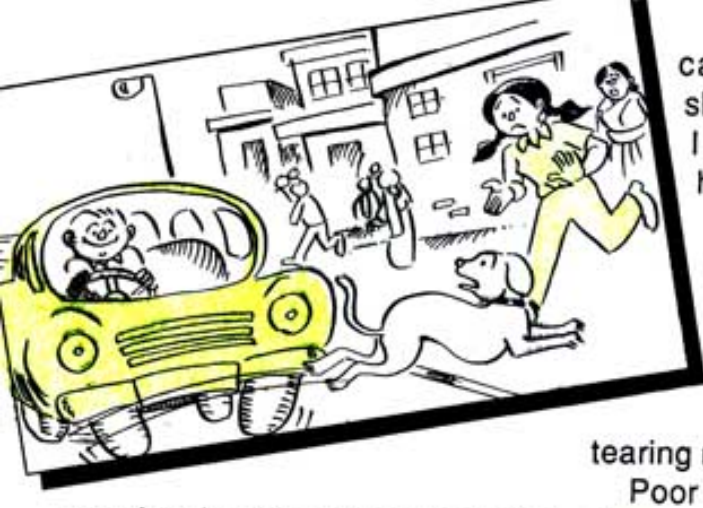
I put on the most natural look and tone as I said,

"Good afternoon auntie. Welcome home!"

- Sneha Shenoy, Age - 12,
Canara Girls HS,
Mangalore.

A NARROW ESCAPE!

Priya - my pet - is a very



naughty dog. She always looks for an opportunity to sneak out of the house and run onto the street - a very busy one at that.

On that unforgettable day, Priya managed to sneak out at peak hour. I was worried to death. I tried, in ways more than one, to catch her but in vain. I shouted and screamed but I don't think Priya even heard me.

I really don't know how it all happened after that. All of a sudden, I heard the screeching sound of the brakes of a car and the sound of the horn tearing my ear-drums.

Poor Priya yelped in fright as she scurried out from front of the car and came running towards me - unhurt but shivering in fright. It was indeed a miraculous escape.

I thanked God for saving my pet.

- S. Sadhwi, Std VIII,
Sardar Patel HS, Bangalore.

WE REMIND YOU...

May 2003 issue comes to you as a

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

featuring

- Riddles
- Travel
- Games
- Health
- Drama
- Jokes
- Hobbies
- Crosswords
- Puzzles
- Eating out
- Activities
- Fashion

Rush in your contributions to :

Editor,
Gokulam,
Kalki Buildings, 47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 097

Last Date : 05.04.2003. Mention 'Holiday Special' on the envelope.

ON A MISSION

I went to bed late one night,
Only to be awakened by a
faint light,
I looked out through my window,
And saw a spaceship land low,
I was gently lifted into the air,
I know not where
Until I landed on a world all new,
Believe me, it was all so true.

"Greetings to you earthling!" I heard them speak loud and clear. I stood bewildered and trembling as they stared at me.

"No fear, dear" they said, "We are friends, not foes. So don't you worry, girlie..."

"Who the hell are you?" I asked.

"Martins... We are Martins."

"Martins?" I wondered, "Does this mean they are from Mars...?"

My thoughts were interrupted.

"Come along. I'll show you around" said one of them. He took two steps forward and held out his hand. His eyes twinkled with joy and he wore a broad smile on his round face.

They were all dressed alike. They even looked alike, well, more or less alike I should say. They wore coats, long ones and had a funny looking extension on their heads - something like a snout, a longish snout. They looked quite different from what we humans imagine Martians to be - green, slimy, ugly creatures. In fact, they were far from it.

* I saw a spaceship land low

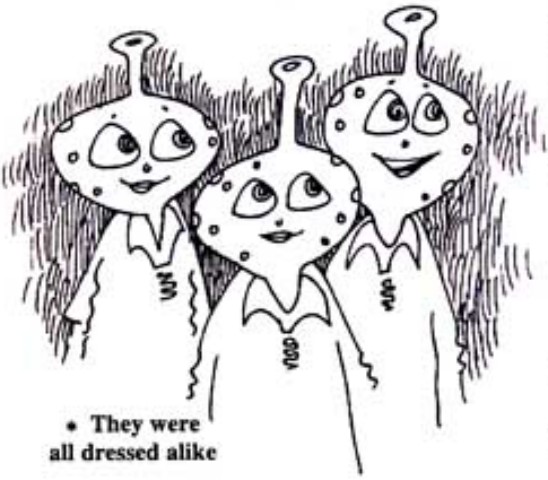
Feeling a lot more brave, I asked them, "Why have you brought me up here? What is it that you want to know? What are you going to do to me?" Questions poured out of my mouth one after another.

"Be assured. We won't harm you." This 'Martin' looked different. She was perhaps the 'queen'? Like the queen ant of an ant family? She was smaller in size, but more grand to look at!

She continued to speak, "We want to tell you earthlings something. Something important. Something that will set you thinking. You are a clever little girl. We have watched you for a while now. We thought we could use you..."

"What! Use me? Use me for what?" I blurted, although deep within I realized how fortunate and important I was to be the first 'earthling' to talk to a Martin!

She took me around. I was simply awestruck. Everything was spick and span. Floors and ceilings glittered with lights. Funny noises could be heard from the several huge gadgets that stood looming. "Was it a STAR WARS movie?" I thought...



• They were all dressed alike

"What's your name?" I asked, picking up courage.

"XM0081" came the prompt reply.

"Don't you have names like Max, Spitty or Fire Hunt...?"

XM0081 gurgled. Her laughter sounded much like gurgling waters back home.

"We all have names like this, Nisha. And our home is called Telecon."

How on earth did XM0081 know my name...? I decided not to dwell much on that, for there was a lot more to ask, to learn...

"Telecon? What on earth's that?"

"Its nothing on earth. On the contrary we are far from earth."

"Aren't you from Mars then? Are you not Martians?"

"Ha! Ha! Ha!" XM0081 guffawed but continued to speak.

"We did belong to Mars. We were called Martians then. But now we live on Telecon and call ourselves Martins. We were forced to shift our homes..." The guffaw slowly turned into anger.

"What do you mean?" I intervened with mixed emotions.

By now, three, four other Martins had joined us. X0R spoke angrily, "It was all because of you earthlings."

I got angry too. "Why blame us?" I retorted. No way. I wasn't going to give

in that easily. I shall defend my fellow 'earthlings' whoever I am talking to, be it Martians, Martins or Rasputins...

Something cautioned me from within. What if they hurt me? I decided to let them speak.

It was XM0X's turn to speak. "Don't you worry. X0R is just deeply hurt. We did lead a peaceful, happy life on Mars... A beautiful paradise it was. It gave us all we needed and in the purest form... Water, food, air..."

I sat up. "Air? Is there any Oxygen on Mars? I've only heard of debates on the presence of water."

"We mined it out of Mars' ground and rocks..."

"Go on!" I cut him short beginning to get impatient now.

"We lived in comfort and peace until we were disturbed by some unknown force that probed into our privacy. We began to feel a change, a change in our atmosphere, something that troubled us. It wasn't easy for us to take it. You kept sending lots of things to our home..."

"Things?" I wondered "Did he mean the space crafts we send for studies...?"

X0R took over from XM0X. "You have also made a large hole in the ozone layer that surrounds your planet. There is so much that leaks through these holes that disturbs us. Our planet does not have a protective shield. We

* She was smaller in size but more grand...

couldn't take it...

began to understand it all. I felt ashamed.

"We brought you here to show you our new home and explain our plight. You must help us now. Be our messenger. When we take you back home, you must talk to your people..."

HOME! That's where I wanted to go now. I wanted my mother, my father... I wanted to see them...

landed on the floor with a thud. The martins had 'dropped' me back I thought, and opened my eyes. I had rolled off my bed.

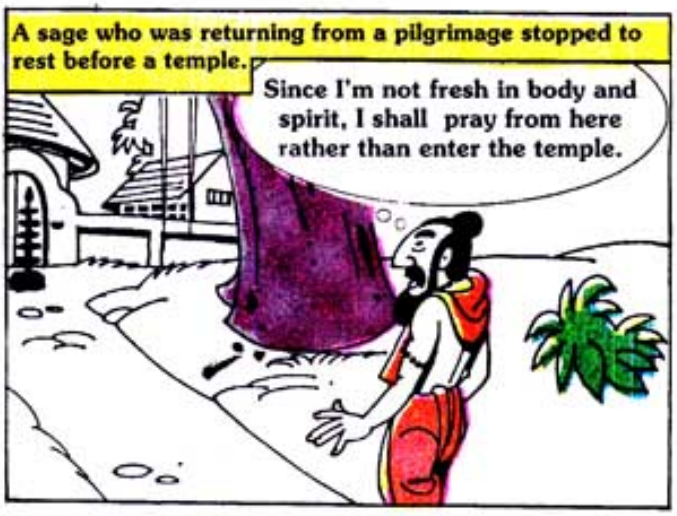
I ran to my parents who were fast asleep in the room next to mine. I must tell them about my experience. I must spread the message... The message that would drive home the evils of pollution from an entirely different angle...

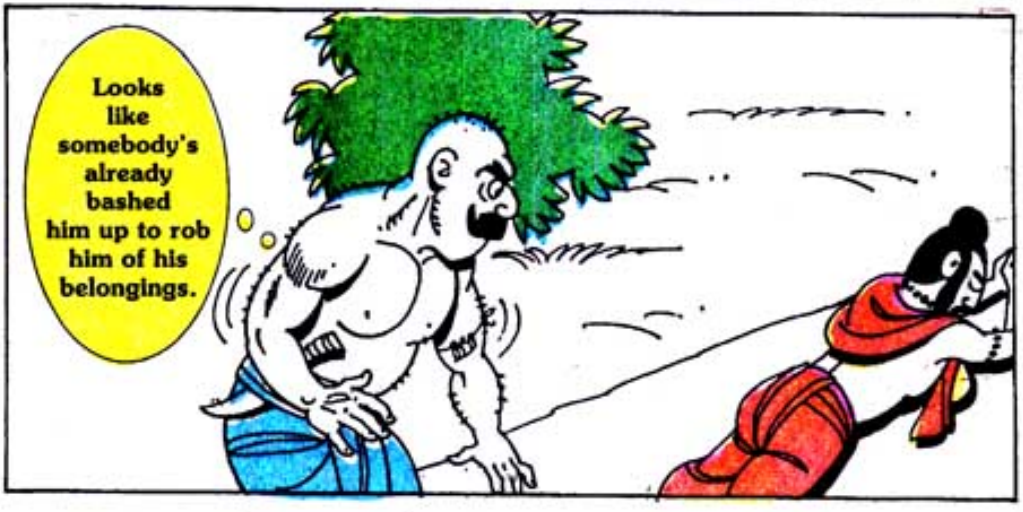
- K.S. Swapna,
Std X,
Shri Anand Jain Vidyalaya,
Chennai.

REFLECTIONS

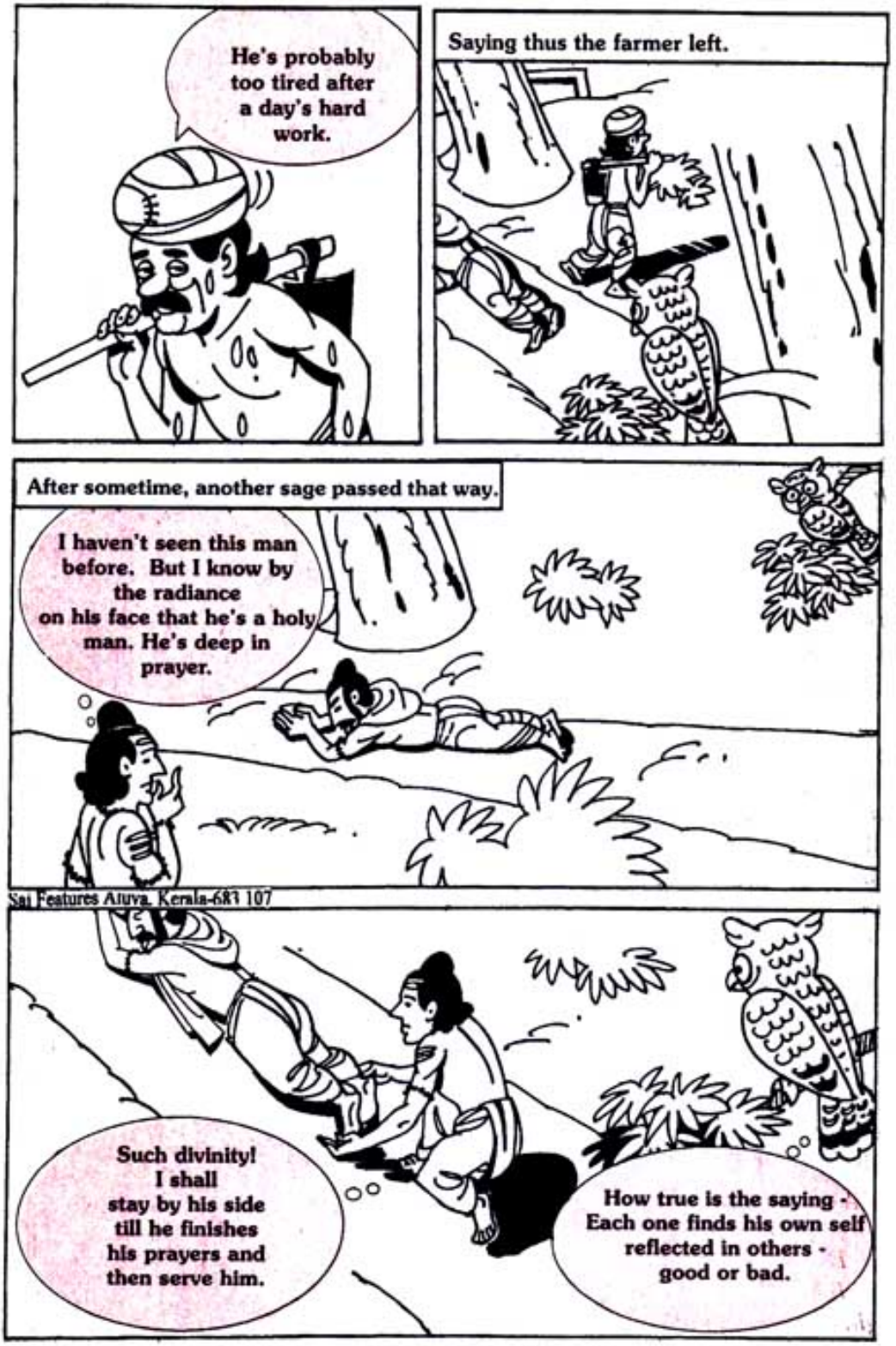
Script : VENU VARIATH

Illustration: Chandraji





A wise owl was watching all that was happening.
I'd better leave before the king's soldiers come.
Within minutes after the robber left, a drunkard came that way.
Ha, ha, ha... This man is out, flat.
He should take a lesson or two from me. I might get drunk but I am not the one to lose my balance.
The next to come that way was a tired farmer.
How sad... Why is this man lying here?


He's probably too tired after a day's hard work.
Saying thus the farmer left.
After sometime, another sage passed that way.
I haven't seen this man before. But I know by the radiance on his face that he's a holy man. He's deep in prayer.
Sai Features Aluva, Kerala-683 107
Such divinity! I shall stay by his side till he finishes his prayers and then serve him.
How true is the saying - Each one finds his own self reflected in others - good or bad.

WE MUST FACE REALITIES

GRANDMA WORM

Dear Grandma worm,

Hindi is my toughest subject. How am I to study it?

- V. Sankruthya, Secunderabad

Dear Sankruthya,

I agree that it is difficult for any child to study three languages and three different scripts as well. All the same the reality has to be faced. You have no choice. You can't neglect your mother tongue or English. The easiest way to learn a language is to hear it spoken properly as often as possible. You can see good Hindi movies, also talk to people with Hindi as their mother tongue. This will give you a flair for the language. But learning to write is a different thing altogether. There is no easy way out. You have to write and rewrite until you are familiar with the script and are able to write it legibly and easily. Allot some time for Hindi everyday, since it is your toughest subject. Practise both reading and writing. Don't acquire speed at the cost of legibility and neatness.

★★★

I would like to become an air-hostess when I grow up. Sometimes I feel I should help my countrymen by becoming a doctor. Please advise me.

- Akshata A. Charlotte, Bellary

Dear Akshata,

Being an air-hostess is ofcourse glamourous. But it is not an easy job. It requires a lot of training and also some personal sacrifices. The best way to learn more about it is to befriend an air-hostess and get to know everything about her work. You can then decide whether that is what you want. As for becoming a doctor or a chartered accountant you can easily decide by asking yourself which subject you like best at school. If you are good at figures you can take up maths, commerce or the like. On the other hand if you love physiology and anatomy you can decide on careers such as a doctor, veterinarian and so on. Now that you are in the ninth standard you will have to decide in a year or two.

Love,
Grandma worm

INTERESTINGLY INFORMATIVE

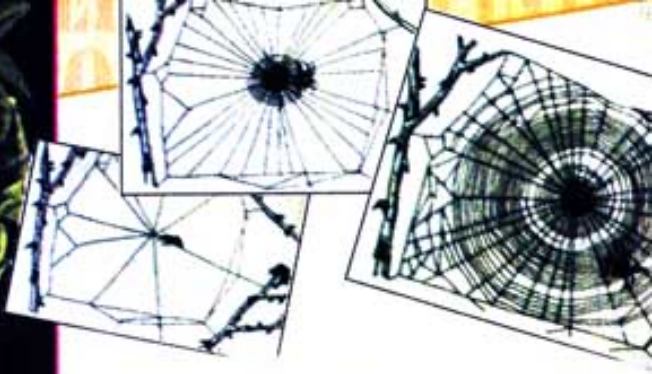
APITHERAPY

Bee sting therapy is gaining popularity in the U.S.A. In this method of treatment for pain, the honey bee is taken out of a jar and placed against the skin so that it can sting the person! The intense pain of the sting soon gives way to itching and then there is soothing relief not only at the site of the sting but throughout the body. The bee can be placed at the specific trouble spot or all along the spine so that the curative venom can be distributed to various parts of the body.

Apitherapy, as it is called, this treatment is said to work by stimulating the adrinal glands to release hormones that prevent inflammation. This therapy attracts people who have to bear intense pain in their everyday life due to ailments like rheumatoid arthritis.

Many people claim to have benefitted from the treatment, but the medical profession in general, views it with suspicion and says that it is an unproven technique that could end up doing more harm than good.

- K. Vidhyasagar Mattar,
Std XI,
Pragati English Medium HSS,
Ahmedabad



THREAD WALK

Spiders make threads out of the fluid that comes out from their stomachs. This fluid solidifies when it comes into contact with air.

Have you ever wondered why spiders don't get stuck in their own webs?

The web is made up of both sticky and dry (non - sticky) type of threads. Spiders are clever! They walk only on the dry (radial) type of threads, carefully avoiding the sticky (circular) ones. Moreover, the legs of these spiders are covered with an oily substance that prevents any sticking!

- Sai Deepak, Std IV, Saikor English Medium School, Vizianagaram

LUMINOUS LIGHT BUGS

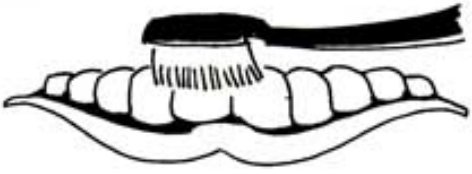
Firefly, (also known as 'lighting bug') is the common name for about 1100 species of insects found throughout the tropical and temperate regions. They are slender - bodied insects with dark brown sheath - like front wings. They have yellow or orange markings and luminescent glands located in the rear abdominal segment. Both sexes emit intermittent light signals to woo their mates. This is a common spectacle in meadows during late spring and summer nights. The luminous larvae of some species are called glow - worms.

- R. Saranraj, Std VII, Sri Sankara Matric HSS, Chennai

*** K. Manjunath Bhat, Chennai**

? Why should we brush our teeth up and down and not sideways?

! Sweeping the brush up and down cleans the teeth on all their accessible surfaces including in-between areas.



It also massages the gums. The bristles of the brush enter the spaces and remove the plaque. Massaging increases blood circulation in the gum tissues and keeps the gums healthy. On the contrary, brushing sideways (i.e., horizontal brushing) causes erosion of the enamel along the gum margin or even underneath the margin leading to tooth loss.

*** Tejaswi, Kolkata**

? A thick layer in molten form has formed on my teeth. When I scratch the teeth, it sticks to my nails. Please give me a remedy.

*** Sushmita, Bangalore**

? What is tartar? How can it be prevented?

! Dear, Tejaswi! The sticky material found on your teeth is the accumulation of tartar. Tartar or calculus is the scaly, yellowish or brownish, hard, chalk-like substance that forms at the gum margins around the teeth. It is also a molty crowd of bacteria and fungi. The tartar irritates and pushes the gums away from the teeth and causes gingivitis (i.e., inflammation of gums). It causes bleeding and results in bad smell in the mouth. The only way to eliminate tartar is to get the teeth cleaned by the dentist with the help of 'ultra sonic scaler'. Scaling should be done every six months. Regular brushing and

keeping the mouth clean prevents tartar.

*** S. N. Kirtana, Bhubaneswar**

? I have a habit of biting my nails continuously. Is it true that our enamel gets damaged over the years due to excess biting?

! Habit of nail biting may cause erosion of the enamel. If it is left unnoticed, it may lead to hypersensitivity of the teeth. When teeth are sensitive even to tap-water, it can be a nightmare.

WHAT IS TARTAR?

*** R. Pooja, Chennai**

? How can we avoid bad breath?

! Maintain proper oral hygiene by brushing teeth properly, gargling before and after food, using a tongue

cleaner and removing food particles between the teeth by using an inter dental brush. Mouth diseases like gingivitis,caries, impacted tooth, tooth abcess, nonvital tooth and stomatitis (mouth ulcer) should be treated immediately. Avoid smoking drinking alcohol, using pan and chewing tobacco.

*** D. Mohan Arvind, Chennai**

? How can we keep our teeth strong, fresh, and germfree for a long time?

! A good diet helps to keep your teeth strong. Eat plenty of fruits, vegetables, grains, milk, egg, fish and vitamin - enriched foods. Careful and regular brushing keeps your teeth fresh and germ free. Use a soft angled brush with rounded bristles. Brush at least twice a day. Sweep the brush downwards from the gums towards the teeth in the case of the upper teeth and upwards in the case of lower teeth. Clean the chewing surfaces using a scrubbing motion. Be sure to clean all tooth surfaces thoroughly. Brush your tongue and rinse well. Replace the brush whenever it gets worn or frayed. Rinse the mouth thoroughly after each meal or snacks. Avoid frequent intake of soft drinks. Sugar consumption like sweets and chocolates should be kept under control.

*** M. N. Harshini, Bangalore-21**

? My teeth seem to be yellowish. If I press the brush on my gums, the gums start to bleed. Is there any remedy to make my teeth sparkle once again?

! Accumulation of tartar makes your tooth yellowish. Gingivitis is the common cause for gum bleeding. It is the result of poor oral hygeine and of the accumulation of bacterial plaque on the teeth. Vitamin C deficiency, systemic diseases like tuberculosis and regular intake of certain drugs can also cause gum bleeding. Consult your dentist, find out the cause and take treatment.

Your next topic : **EAR CARE**

Send in your queries to

Dr. G. Ganesan

C/o Gokulam,

Kalki Buildings,

47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,

Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 097

Last Date : 20.04.2003.

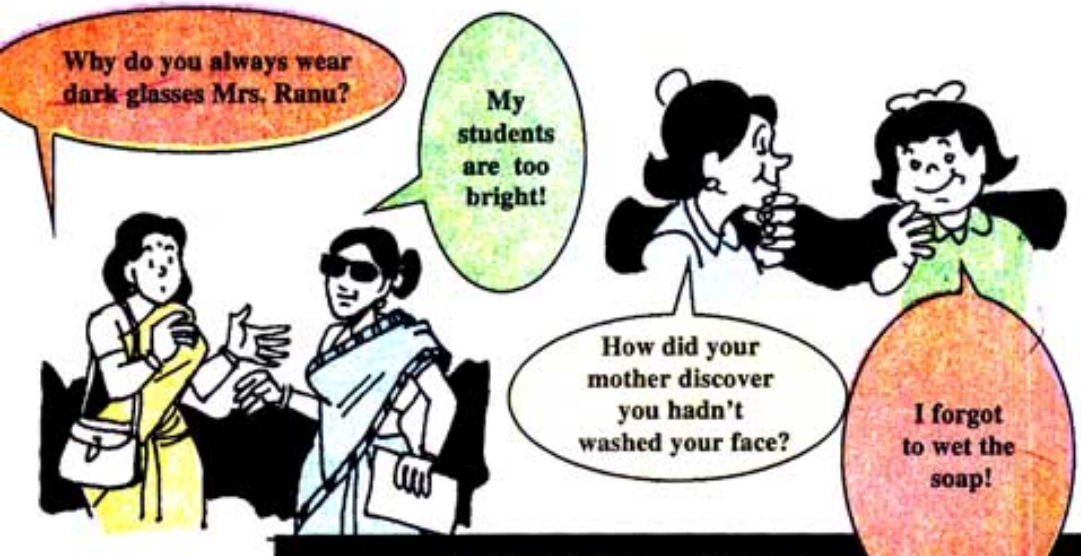
Write on postcard only.

Give details of name, age, class, school and residential address.

JOKES... MORE JOKES...SOME MORE JOKES...

Very

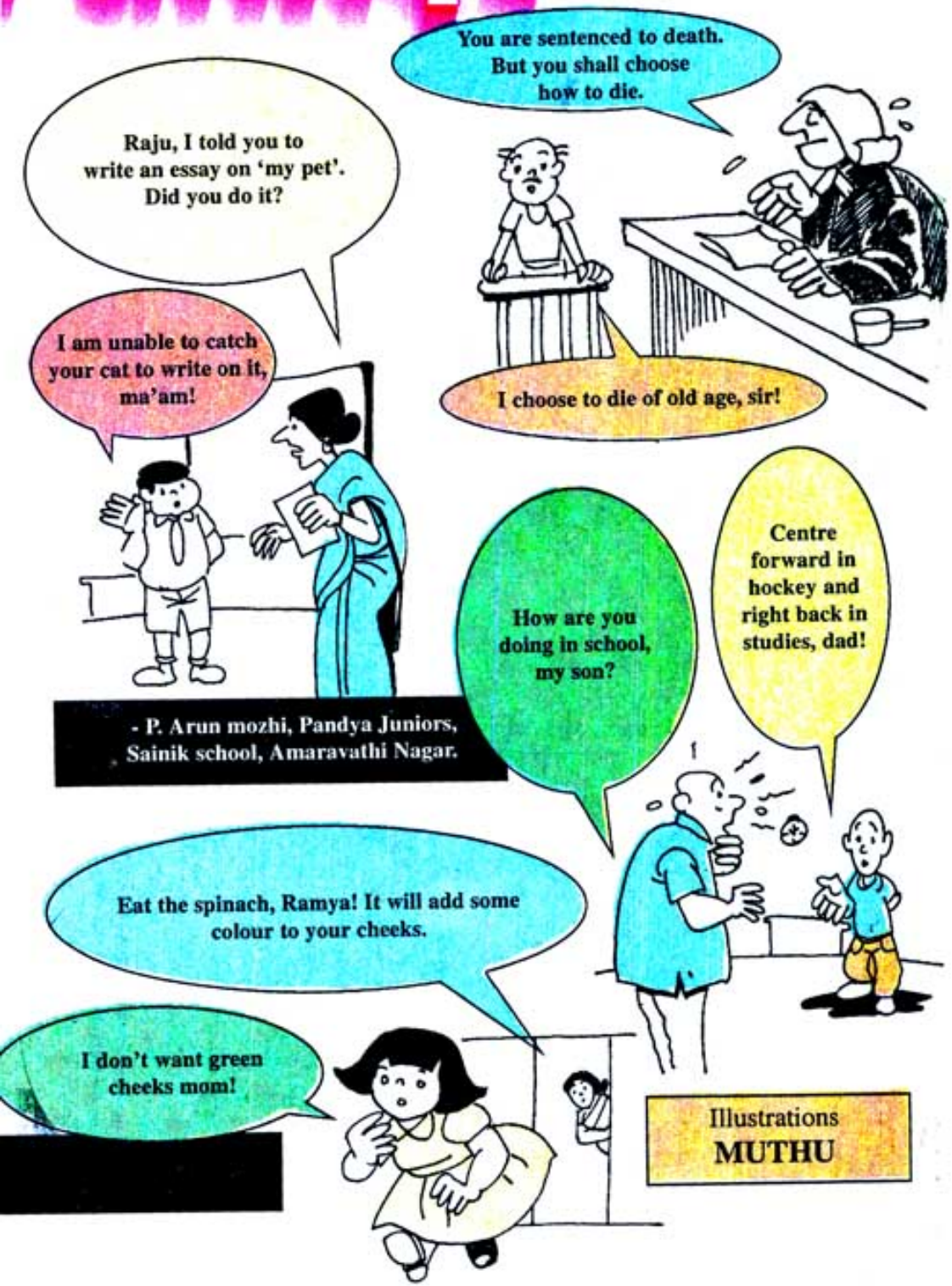
- R.V. Selva Kumar, Std IX, Sainik school, Amaravathi Nagar.



- M. Vinodh, Sankarankovil.

Funny!

JOKES... MORE JOKES...



- P. Arun mozhi, Pandya Juniors, Sainik school, Amaravathi Nagar.

Illustrations
MUTHU

RIDDLES

TOO TRICKY?

Which room has no door, no windows, not even a floor?!

• a mushroom!

Where would you find a queue of bees?!

• at the 'buzz' stop!

It can never rain continuously for two days. Why?!

• there's always a night inbetween!

What do farmers and gardeners grow at the same time?!

• old!

We have this in December but not in any other month. What is it?!

• the letter 'D'!

What part would the lion have in a play?!

• the 'mane' part!

Bidhi Samantray,
St. Joseph's HS, Bhubaneshwar

Shweta D' Cruz, Age 10,
St. Joseph's HS, Mumbai

SPEED UP AND WIN A PRIZE!

GOKULAM

the magazine for children

FEED-BACK FORM

Dear children,

You have been our loyal readers for fifteen years now. We have drawn much inspiration from all of you who have helped us do better with every year that has gone past.

Just as Gokulam enters its sixteenth year come July, we look to you once again for your suggestions.

Kindly take ten minutes off to fill in this feed-back form and mail it to us before 01.05.2003. You can also get your parents to help you!

We have a small gift for the first fifty responses that we receive. These first fifty children will be rewarded with a book/books worth Rs. 50/- each. So, speed up and win a prize!

Remember, your suggestions, each and every one of them, will help us go a long way...

Name : ..... Class: .....

Age : ..... School: .....

Residential address :..... School address:.....

....

....

....

....

Pin..... Pin .....

Father's name:

Occupation:

Monthly income:

Mother's name:

Occupation:

Monthly income:

1. Do you enjoy reading in general? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. How long have you been reading *Gokulam?* ☐ Years

3. How does *Gokulam* reach you? ✔

☐ Direct subscriber

☐ Buy from the shop

☐ Delivered by newspaper agent

☐ School library

☐ Public library

☐ Sharing with friends

☐ Others (please specify)

.....

4. Does *Gokulam* reach you on time?

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Occasional delays

5. Do you find difficulty in buying *Gokulam?*

a) in newspaper stands near your area

☐ Yes ☐ No

(b) through your newspaper agent

☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Does your school library stock *Gokulam?*

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Not too sure

7. Who else reads *Gokulam* at home?

☐ Father ☐ Mother

☐ Brother/Sister

☐ Others (please specify)

.....

8. Do you talk about *Gokulam* to your friends? ☐ Yes ☐ No

9. Would you recommend *Gokulam* to your friends? ☐ Yes ☐ No

10. What other magazines do you read?

a. b. c.

11. Several columns* appear in *Gokulam.* Which of these do you enjoy the most? Put them down in order of your preference.

1.	4.	7.
2.	5.	8.
3.	6.	9.

* stories, picture stories, articles, serials, puzzles, special features, jokes, experiences, viewpoint, grandma worm, personality, hello doctor, snippets, centre-spread poster, contests...

12. What other columns would you like to be featured in *Gokulam?*

1. 4.

2. 5.

3. 6.

13. What areas in *Gokulam* need improvement? (Please ✔)

Area	Can be better	Good	Excellent
Cover page			
Print quality			
Illustration			
Colour			
Content Variety			
Language			

14.Other suggestions: (3-4 lines)

Thank you for filling up this form. Such feed-back helps us in many ways. We shall take your suggestions in the right spirit and shall always strive to do our best for you and the children community.

- Editor

Send your feed-back to

Editor

Gokulam

47- NP, 'Kalki buildings', Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai 600 097.

A WOOD WEAR PARADE

At eighty plus what are our grandpas doing? Probably just relaxing? But that is not the way of life for the world famous writer Sidney Sheldon, who has written sixteen novels. At eighty six, he is presently engaged in writing three more

books - a novel (Are you afraid of the dark?); a memoir (The Other Side of Me) and a collection of short stories. Remember, Sheldon, neither uses a typewriter nor sits at a computer. He simply writes!

★★★

There was an unusual anniversary celebrated in Italy. It was to mark the completion of a year after the Lira, the currency of Italy went out of circulation to make way for the Euro. A sculpure of a woman of about eleven feet, weighing 1200 kgs, made out of two million melted coins of Lira, was unveiled at a colourful function.

★★★

Mount Everest will soon have an added attraction. Tsering Gyaltsen Sherpa the 32 year old grandson of Tenzing Norgay is setting up an internet cafe on the snow covered peak. Now, the Himalayan adventurists can log on to the internet and be in touch with the world down below.But it will cost them around rupees fifty thousand to undertake this (ad)netventure. The money collected by the net cafe will be utilised for cleaning up the rubbish left behind by the climbers!

★★★

Crime is on the rise in Japan, though the country is still safe by international standards. But, Japanese police officials never take chances. They have sought the help of the sumo wrestlers who are now on night patrols!

★★★

We wear dresses made of cotton, silk, wool, leather etc., But for fashion shows all over the world, anything is OK. In the picture above, taken at a fashion show held in Rome, a model wears a gown made of...Can you imagine?..Wood!

- Gautham Ram, Chennai.

GOKULAM

The magazine for children

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To
The Circulation Manager
GOKULAM (English)
'Kalki Buildings', 47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal,
Chennai - 600 097.

"With meat and gravy it is a vegetable superior to anything that I know either in temperate or tropical countries. With sugar, milk, butter or treacle, it is a delicious pudding, having a very slight and delicate but characteristic flavour, which, like that of good bread and potatoes, one never gets tired of."

- A.R.Wallace in his Malay Archipelago

Boiled, Baked or Fried...

It is said that the birthplace of this fruit is Malaysia and it has been cultivated there from time immemorial.

Its introduction into the New World was connected with the memorable voyage of Captain William Bligh in HMS 'Bounty' - a voyage recommended by Captain James Cook who had seen this fruit in the Pacific Islands.

Although numerous varieties have since then been cultivated in the Pacific Islands, this fruit remains unknown in tropical America. The tree could not withstand the frost and hence has not been successfully grown even in the southern most parts of Florida. →

WHAT IS A VEGETABLE? →

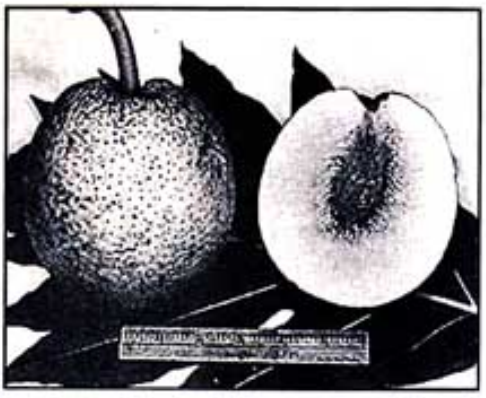
Vegetables form a major portion of our daily diet- (or atleast

• Root

• Fruit

• Bulb

• Seed



The bread fruit is found in plenty in the South Pacific islands and to a lesser degree in other parts of the tropics. It is a handsome tree that grows to a moderate height of sixty feet. It has oval shaped leaves that are quite large and glossy green.

The fruit is globular in shape, about the size of a melon, with a tuberculated or (in some varieties) nearly smooth surface. The two distinct varieties of this fruit are the ones that are seedless and those with many seeds.

Different varieties of the fruit ripen at different periods, thus affording a nearly constant supply throughout the year. The fruit is gathered for use just before it ripens. At this stage, the bread fruit contains a considerable amount of starch.

In the popular sense it is really not a fruit as it is rarely eaten raw. It is cooked and prepared for use in a variety of ways.

More often than not, the bread fruit is boiled or baked in entirety, the interior scooped and served with salt, butter, sweet milk or even syrup. It is also sliced and fried like potatoes!

In the Pacific Islands, the fruits are preserved for use by storing in pits, where they ferment and take upon themselves a consistency resembling cheese. They do at this state, emit an offensive odour, but after baking under hot stones, they yield nutrituous and delicious food.

A more common method of preserving the fruit is cutting it into thin slices and allowing to dry in the sun. From these dried slices, a flour is prepared which is useful for the preparation of puddings, bread and biscuits.

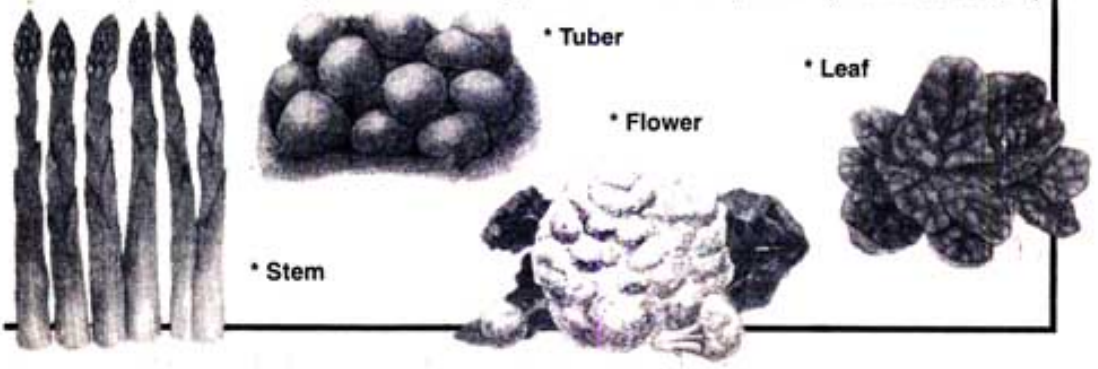
From the fibrous inner bark of the bread fruit tree, cloth is made. The wood is used for making canoes and furniture. Glue and caulking material are obtained from the milky juice that trickles down the grooves cut in the bark.

- K.Vijaya, Chennai

they should!). What is a vegetable? How can we define it?

A vegetable is a food that comes from leaves, stems, roots, buds or seeds of a plant. Bulbs can be eaten too.

All plants are not vegetables but all vegetables come from plants - (a real discovery?!)



Chapter VI

SANDHYA SRIDHAR

THE MAN WITH NO NAME

Bumping Into Muthu Again

As Eashwar and the maali walked home, who should they bump into but Muthu, their housemaid Meera's son. Eashwar recalled how he had bumped into Muthu earlier, on his way to school. The scamp grinned cheekily when he saw the duo walking towards him. "He has no name, he has no name..." he sang out, grinning at them both, "He has no name..."

In a flash the maali had darted towards him and grabbed his ear. "Owwww!" cried Muthu, "owww! Let go!"

"I'll let go, you little horror, if you stop saying stupid things!" said the maali smartly, "Now do you really want to know my name?"

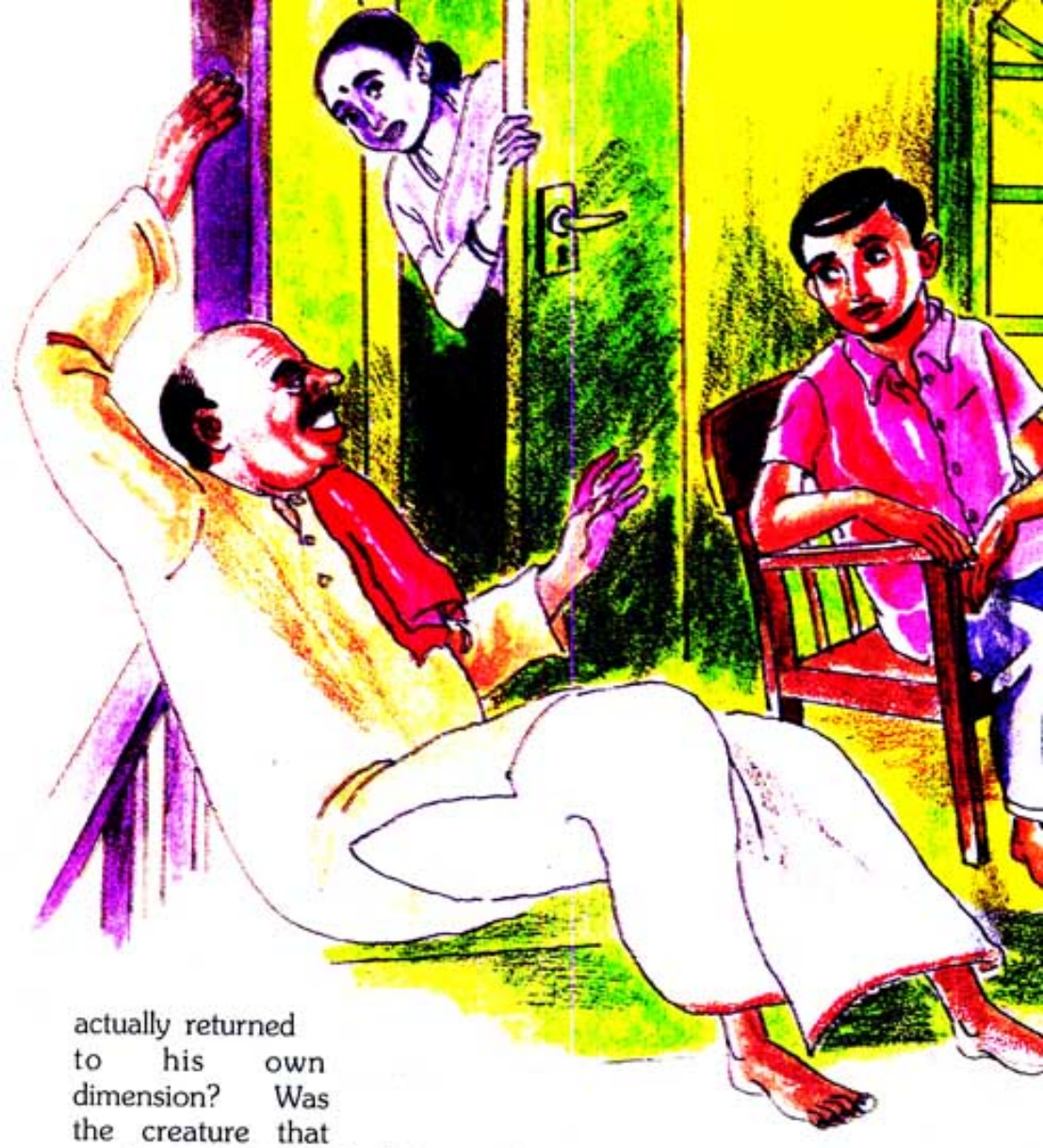
"No, no!" cried Muthu, his eyes starting to water with pain, "Please let me go."

"I'll let go of your ear," said the maali, "But I shall not let you go so easily... Come with me and I shall not only tell you my name, but the story of my life."

Eashwar gaped at the maali who just smiled at him. "Come Eashwar, let's take this fellow home and I shall tell you both who I am and what I am doing here."

The Story of the Maali's Life!

Eashwar did not know what to think. Just a few minutes ago, the maali had said that he would have to leave quietly, in a 'way that was natural to humans'. Now, it looked like he was going to spill the beans to Muthu too! How many people would get to know the truth before he



actually returned to his own dimension? Was the creature that was here in the garb of the maali a fool? Eashwar was now a little irritated and upset.

Seeing his sulky face, the maali's smile widened. "Are you not waiting to hear the story of my life, little master?" he asked. Eashwar scowled at him in return.

They had reached the house by now and the maali opened the gate and let both children in. They walked to the verandah and the boys settled down on the chairs there. The maali sat on the top step and began to talk.

"My name," he said, "is Ramalingam and I come from a small village 50 miles away from Trichy." He looked at both boys in turn, "You know where Trichy is, don't you?"

They nodded. "Well...that's where I was born and brought up and suddenly one day, my father died. My mother, my three sisters and I were left to fend for ourselves and of course, the wicked landlord..."

Suddenly, the front door opened and Eashwar's mother popped her head out. "Ah!" she said, "Here you are. I thought I heard voices. So what did Krishnan's mother say? How is Krishnan?"

Eashwar told her what happened leaving out the maali's role in it. He talked in English so that Muthu would not understand. Amma sighed in relief. "Now that's something I need not worry about," she said. Then her eyes fell on Muthu. "Oh, you are here. Your mother's gone home."

"I know..." said Muthu, "I am here to listen to the story of maali's life." Amma looked puzzled as she turned to the maali. Then she saw his amused face and understood. He was making up a 'life story' for the benefit of Muthu and others who were curious about him. The maali well knew that Muthu would relate the story to his mother, and very soon, the 'story of maali's life' would make the rounds of the neighbourhood. Then of course, he could pretend that his sister or brother was ill and vanish forever, never to return. Such things happened among people and nobody thought twice about them.

Later, after Muthu had left, quite satisfied with 'Ramalingam's' story and bursting to tell it to others, the maali said to Eashwar, "Now this story will be told to others and I can one day, return to my 'village' in peace."

A Small Problem

The next day, Eashwar went to school as usual. But during the

middle of the second period, he felt quite feverish. His teacher took him to the school nurse who pronounced that he was running a temperature. His mother was called and she took him back home in an auto.

As Eashwar and Amma got out of the auto in front of their house, a strange sight met their eyes. A policeman was holding a bewildered-looking maali, while two others were walking about - obviously investigating the garden and the house. One of the policemen suddenly walked to the house and peered into the window.

"They've gone out, I tell you!" the maali said, "I tell you, I am not a thief."

"What's going on?" that was Amma charging into the compound, an angry look on her face. The man holding the maali turned to her and asked, "Do you live here?"

"Of course, I live here! What do you mean by coming in here when I am out and holding my gardner? He hasn't done anything! Let him go!"

"So you say, madam," said the policeman, "But your neighbour has complained that she has seen this man poking about your house and garden..."

"Of course, he would!" Amma replied angrily, "He is my gardener and he will be poking about my house and garden, wouldn't he?"

"Be calm, madam," said the policeman again, "See... it's not just that, she says she's missing some valuable statues from her

garden and she suspects your maali..."

Amma was now very, very angry, Eashwar saw. His throat was burning and he wanted to lie down. But not now, when serious things were beginning to happen. Was the maali going to be arrested?

It's Now a Big Problem

Amma turned to look at the maali. He looked very upset. This had upturned all his plans of leaving quietly. How could he leave for his world if he was thrown into jail? These were Easwar's worries, and he knew that they were Amma's as well.

"Have you found any of the stolen statues in this house?" Amma asked the policemen.

"No madam," was the reply, "We were waiting for you to arrive so that we could search the house and his cottage completely."

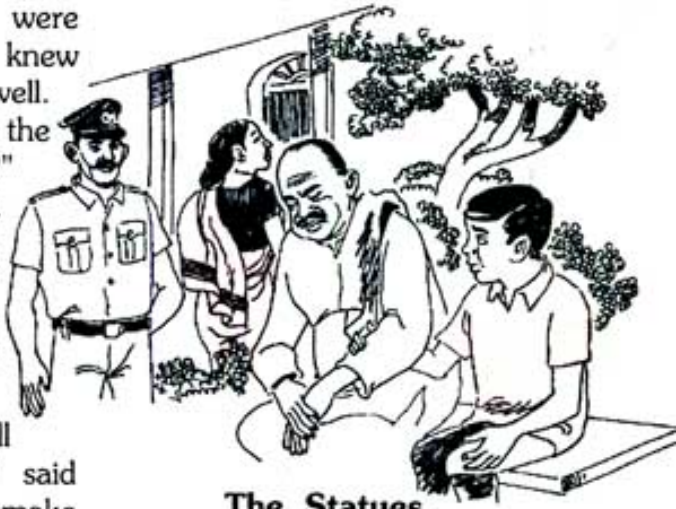
"I would rather you wait till my husband came home," said Amma, "I'll just go in and make a phone call to him." She paused and then said, "Mr. Policeman..."

"My name is Selvaraj madam," said the policeman, "I am the inspector at the station in this locality."

"Mr. Selvaraj," she said, "My gardener is an innocent and harmless old man. Of what use are statues to him? Why should he steal them...?"

"We don't know either, madam," said Inspector Selvaraj, "But since the complaint was made, we have to check it out you know. And Mrs. Nair, your neighbour was quite specific and she said that your maali is the thief. She says she has seen him moving about your garden and hers at odd times in the night. So you see, I have to check out..."

Amma nodded her head as if to agree and unlocked the door to step into the house. She would make that phone call...



The Statues

Inspector Selvaraj who was the one who had been holding the maali now stepped aside to talk to his constables. Eashwar moved closer to the maali to catch his hand and lead him to a garden bench.

"How horrible," he said, "How will you get out of this maali?"

"That woman!" the maali

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

The dole or the Indian wild dog normally communicates to other members of the group by whistling!

- R.V. Selvakumar, Std IX, Sainik School, Amaravathi Nagar.

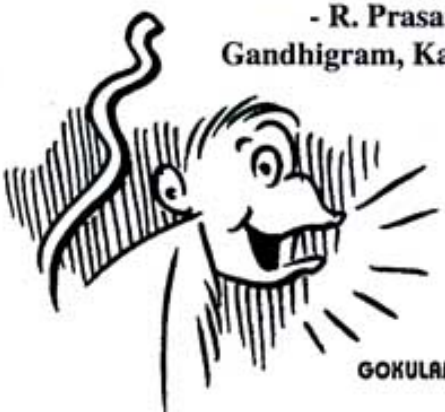
HOW SHOCKING?!

The South American electric eel produces enough electricity to light up 10 electric light bulbs!

SUPER HOWLERS!

The 'howling monkeys' of Central and South America are the noisiest land animals. They can be heard for distances upto 16 kms!

- R. Prasanna, Gandhigram, Karur.



exclaimed, "How was I to know that she was a snoop? I was putting her garden to rights as well... See how green and beautiful it has become... She doesn't care for her plants and I couldn't bear to see all the green wilting. Can you see what I have planted...??! Now she says I stole those horrible statues... I didn't Eashwar... what would I do with them..." He stopped...

"What maali, what happened. tell me!" Eashwar demanded.

"One or two of the stone statues in the garden were transported into my world by mistake, when I was working there..." the maali admitted softly, "I didn't think too much of it at that time... What use or purpose are those statues to any of us? They looked so ugly too..."

"What are we going to do?" Eashwar almost wailed. He could feel frustrated tears starting to form in his eyes.

"Shhh..." the maali cautioned, "Be calm and don't shout so. Eashwar... only you can help me transport the statues back. If I am taken to jail, then..."

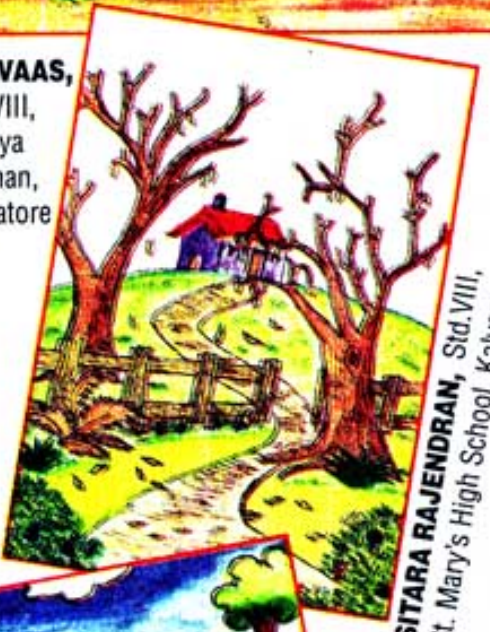
Then.... Eashwar knew that the maali would perhaps never travel back to his world.

NEXT ISSUE -
the last episode :
Would the maali get back to his world, ever?

ART GALLERY

G.SRINIVAAS, Std. VIII, Vidhya Nikethan, Coimbatore

ANKIT PATHAK, Std.VIII, P.E.S.Central School, Mumbai



SITARA RAJENDRAN, Std.VIII, St. Mary's High School, Kalyan

P.SRUJANA, Std.IX, Nalanda Vidya Niketan, Vijayawada

R. SPOORTHI, Std.IX, Nalanda Vidya Niketan, Vijayawada

VIEWPOINT

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

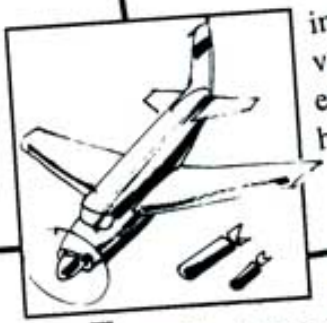
A world war of today will present a totally different scenario as when compared to the wars of the past. In the earlier wars, soldiers fought and died. Thousands of people sacrificed their lives - true. But, today, a war will mean mass destruction, destruction of the human race. Even countries that are not directly involved in the war, countries that take a neutral stance, may not be spared by the atomic blasts that can be most devastating. The entire earth that supports human life will be reduced to shambles in today's modern nuclear war.

The possession of nuclear arms by countries, the increasing thirst for territory, the surge of religious intolerance, the ever growing intensity of economic competition and the newly emerging trouble spots all over the globe have posed new barriers in the path of peace.

It is difficult to find 'the' solution. In my opinion, an international education system can be worked out in which values of spiritualism and a feeling of oneness among the entire human race can be stressed. The United Nations will have to be strengthened to carry out this task.

Today's destructive world really needs a peaceful tomorrow.

- Supriya Padmanabhan, Std.VII, Begusarai, Bihar



A BOON OR A CURSE?

The mobile phone, invented by an American scientist is no doubt a very convenient means of communication. It is a handy, powerful, independent phone instrument that is used widely for both personal and business communication. Sometimes, it even plays the role of a life-saver, to summon doctors, firemen, police etc.

There are times, though, when the same instrument becomes the cause for death, particularly in the form of road accidents. It is also very often a source of disturbance - in hospitals, in theatres, concert halls and other public places - why, even in classrooms!

Scientists and doctors also point out that continuous use of mobile phones causes entry of electro-magnetic waves into the body and this is very harmful.

It is true that more often than not, the mobile is used only as a status symbol and not as a needy device!

- Mayuri S.Kunigiri, Std.IX, Little Angel HS, Mumbai

WHAT TO ACCEPT AND WHAT NOT?

From salwars to mini skirts; lime juice to coca-cola; dosas to pizzas...

Such is the influence of western culture and values on our deep and rich Indian culture. This influence began with the entry of the British into our country. But at that time our national leaders voiced their protest against this influence. Today, we seem to have succumbed to it. This has lead to a certain strain between the generations and has resulted in several disparities and disagreements.

We must be careful as to what to accept while such influences spread.

The spread is bound to happen. Have not the western countries accepted Ayurveda that had its origin in India? This is a healthy approach.

Let us not make blind choices. Let us accept only those aspects of living that will not jeopardise Indian culture and tradition.

- A. Gomathy, Std.IX,
Bhavan's Varuna Vidyalaya,
Cochin

WHAT RIGHT DO WE HAVE?

How shocking that in this period of the 21st century, female infanticide is still prevalent in many parts of our country?!

So much is spoken about women's empowerment but people still do not understand that girls must be given equal status! Instead they ruthlessly kill the girl child as soon as she is born. What right do we have to do this? How can we destroy another human life?

Let us not forget that this baby girl would grow up to be a mother some day - and if she grows up to be an educated mother, her family will be educated.

Afterall, every child's education begins at home and is imparted by mother first.

- R.Rupa, Std.IX,
NHES, Jamshedpur

STAMP SLIDES

Luxembourg, a small country in Western Europe, issued 3 stamps on 10.12.2002.

THE RED FOX - 0.45 Euro, shows the red fox with black paws, a white tipped tail and a brown - red coat with white patches.

THE HEDGEHOG - 0.52 Euro, shows the hedgehog whose back is covered with long, hard and sharp quills and stomach with soft fur. Its colour varies from light brown to black.

THE DEER - 0.89 Euro, shows the deer that lives in Europe and Asia. It has a brown - red coat and a short tail. The antlers of the male can have up to ten horns.

Source: Lux Philate

- J. Prabakararaju, Thiurukandeeswaram

Christmas in the North Pole

On the occasion of Christmas, Greenland issued a set of two stamps on 21 October, 2002.

- The 4.50 Kroner stamp depicts children and sledge.
- The 4.75 Kroner stamp depicts children returning home after playing.

Source: Greenland collector

The Faroe Islands, a group of small islands in Europe near Scotland, issued on 17.09.2001, a set of 4 stamps of value 4.50 kroner, 6.50 kroner, 9.00 kroner and 20 kroner, depicting whales, on the theme of 'marinelife'

Source: Faroese, stamp news.

J. Manju Bhashini

PENPALS

Name : **S. Ashok**
Age : 13
Address : D.No. 55-43-16/7, Doctor's Colony, Seethammadhara, Visakhapatnam - 530 026.
Hobbies: Playing video games, collecting coins, watching T.V., drawing and painting and reading stories.

Name : **Rashmi V. Rao**
Age : 14
Address : No.50, Sindhu, Vinayaka Layout, IInd cross, Marathalli, Bangalore 560 037.
Hobbies : Reading, playing basket ball, watching movies, surfing the net and writing stories.

Name : **O.R. Jai Kumar**
Age : 14
Address : 32, South Raja Street, Alandur, Chennai - 600 016.
Hobbies : Collecting stamps, playing cricket and reading books.

Name : **M.B. Nishant**
Age : 11
Address : IV/1, A.T.I.C.T.I Qtrs, Shivam road, Vidyanagar, Hyderabad 500 007 .
Hobbies : Judo, reading general knowledge books and playing foot ball.

Name : **Ladika S. Dave**
Age : 17
Address : Velankani Apts, Flat 201, Panchal Nagar, near St. Francis' High School, Nallasopara (W), Dist Thane 401 203.
Hobbies : Reading books, stitching and painting.

Name : **P. Siva**
Age : 13
Address : 14/E, Railway Colony, Madurai - 16.
Hobbies : Reading, playing cricket and Carnatic music.

Name : **K.V. Veena**
Age : 14
Address : 105/C, W.& P. Qtrs, West colony, Yelahanka, Bangalore 560 064.
Hobbies : Singing, reading novels, collecting chocolate wrappers and pens and making friends.

Name : **Arjun S. Kumar**
Age : 10
Address : 392, 6th Cross, 4th block, 1st stage, HBR layout, Bangalore 560 043.
Hobbies : Playing the tabala, reading novels, playing cricket and chess.

Name : **Girish Y. Kamble**
Age : 15
Address : Jeevan Sahar Society, Parijat Bldg, A/103, Tarun Bharat Area, Old Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400 099.
Hobbies : Listening to music, reading books, writing letters to friends, playing cricket and badminton.

Name : **Meera Nandakumar**
Age : 12 years
Address : VKV Kuporijo, P.O. Daporijo, Dt., Upper Subansiri, Arunachal Pradesh 791 122.
Hobbies : Reading adventurous books and bird watching.

Name : **R. Satya Prakash**
Age : 14
Address : A/204, Madhura Colony, Kusugal Road, Keshwapur, Hubli 580 023.
Hobbies : Listening to songs, watching T.V. and reading mystery stories.

Name : **Nikita Kadri**
Age : 13
Address : 'Shilpa Sangeeta', near Kadri Toll gate, Kankanary Post, Mangalore 575 002.
Hobbies : Reading, listening to music, writing letters and watching T.V.

Name : **M. Rasagnya**
Age : 13
Address : 3-14-18/A/2, Srinivasapuram, Ramanathapur, Hyderabad - 500 013.
Hobbies : Singing, painting, playing volley ball and reading Gokulam.

Name : **S. Vandana**
Age : 13
Address : 154, Maruthi Street, T.Nagar, Tirupati 517 507(A.P.)
Hobbies : Reading, listening to music and making friends.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dear Readers,

★ You are most welcome to send in your contributions to **Gokulam** either by post or by e-mail.

Remember every contribution sent by you should give details of your **- Name, Age, Class, Name and address of school, Residential address and a declaration stating that the contribution is your original creation (if not, the source must be mentioned).**

However, we cannot guarantee that your contribution will be published. It is also not possible for us to tell you when it will be published. But, if you require your contributions to be sent back to you on rejection, then you must enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope.

WISH YOU GOOD LUCK! - **Editor**

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE

You will receive a **participation certificate** from us if your contribution is published. At the end of the one year period ending June 2003, the person with most number of participation certificates will receive a special prize. Collect your certificates and keep them carefully.

RUPA

I remember my friend Rupa clearly and vividly as if I had actually 'seen' her, although, I really never got a chance to.

Rupa and I were classmates and neighbours too. Rupa spent most of her time with me. We shared several joyous moments together. She was of great help to me not only with my school work but also as a person who instilled in me a lot of courage and confidence through her kind, encouraging words. I never 'viewed' my loss of sight as a handicap when Rupa was around.

Today, my eyes are filled with tears as I hold uncle Sundar's hands. I wait to 'see' Rupa but I know I cannot... I'll never again be able to, for, she is no more.

It was just a few days ago that she died in an accident. Apparently, Rupa had expressed her last wish to her father, uncle Sundar, that her eyes be transplanted to restore my vision.

Rupa... I do remember her clearly and vividly.

- N. Sadhana,
Std. XI,
Hindu Junior College,
Chennai.

CRISS-CROSS

ENTRY - 2

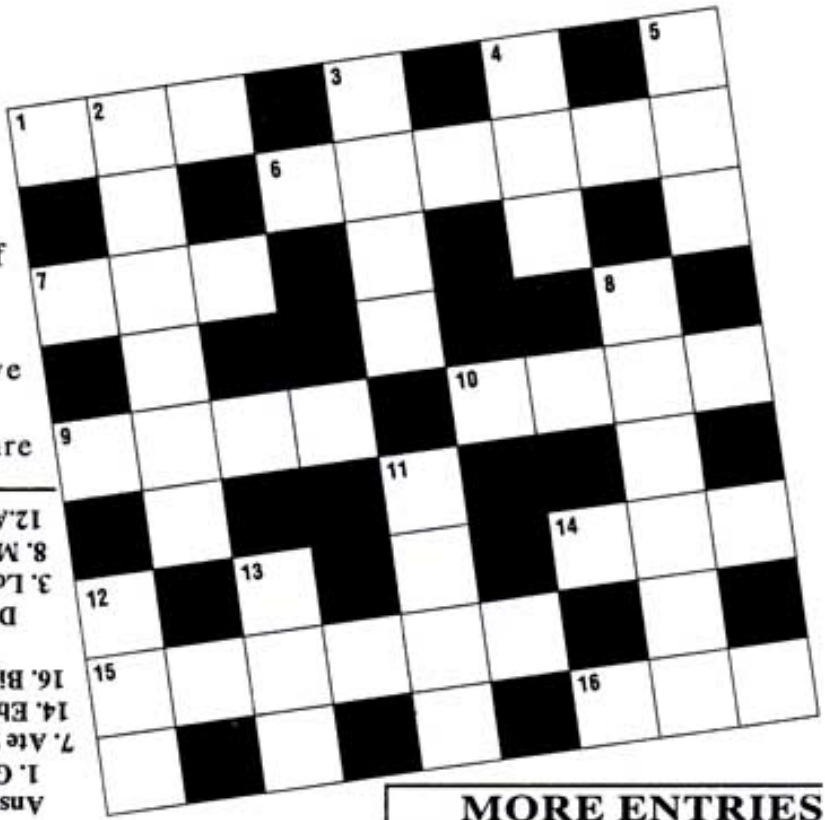
CLUES ACROSS

1. Indian state famous for its beaches and churches
6. Harry _____. A boy wizard created by J.K. Rowling
7. Past tense of eat
9. A graceful water bird
10. Not false
14. To recede
15. Cricketer Tendulkar's first name
16. Large

CLUES DOWN

2. Capital of Canada
3. See
4. Pigs live here
5. Metals are extracted from this
8. This city was earlier known as Bombay
11. What we get during the monsoon
12. Donkey like animal
13. Pretend

- B. Vijeeta,
Std IV,
St. Teresa's Convent High School,
Mumbai - 54.



Answers : Across:
1. Goa 6. Potter
7. Ate 9. Swan 10. True
14. Ebb 15. Sachin
16. Big

Down: 2. Ottawa
3. Look 4. Sty 5. Ore
8. Mumbai 11. Rain
12.Ass 13. Act

MORE ENTRIES

CORNER

CROSSWORD CONTEST

ENTRY -3

This crossword is based on Science i.e. Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

CLUES ACROSS:

1. A place where experiments are carried out (3)
6. A class of substances which neutralise acids (6)
7. Genetic material (3)
9. A physical quantity, product of force and displacement(4)
10. Part of a nerve (4)
14. _____ rib; the main vein of a leaf (3)
15. It moves the bones (6)
16. Potassium metabisulphide (Symbol) (3)

CLUES DOWN:

2. Protective covering of an egg (6)
3. Platelets play a role in forming this (4)
4. Vital liquid in plants (3)
5. Solder is an alloy of lead and _____ ? (3)
8. Baking soda and washing soda are compounds of this (6)
11. Respiratory organ in a tadpole (4)
12. Flightless bird of Australia (3)
13. Abbreviation to confirm quality of a commercial product (3)

- Supriya R.
Std XI,
Elamulam, Kochi
682 020

Answers: Across:
1.lab 6.alkali 7.DNA 9. work 10. axon 14. mid 15.muscle 16.KMS

Down: 2. amnion 3. clot 4. sap 5. tin 8. sodium 11. gill 12. emu 13. ISI

NEXT MONTH

MATABELE GOLD

by HUGH M. LOWE

The blazing African sun must have looked down on many strange happenings in the vast and mysterious continent but on none stranger or more bloodstained than an event of the year 1893.

It occurred in central Africa somewhere in the territory now called the Rhodesias*. A thousand Matabele warriors, a regiment or an "impi", was marching across a desolate scrub- covered plateau towards a line of distant hills. Each man carried his ox-hide shield. A dazzling sun glinted on the broad blades of their spearheads.

It was from their practice of advancing into battle in the shelter of these huge man-sized shields that they derived their name - the Matabele or the "hidden people."

*today's Zimbabwe

Their purpose was to act as escort for the treasure of their mighty chief, the famed Lobengula. At his orders his fabulous wealth was being conveyed to a safe hiding place.It was the threat of war with the British that made Lobengula decide to hide his vast personal fortune. Between the black ranks of marching warriors 20 ox-drawn wagons lumbered on their way towards the hills, bearing untold quantities of gold, diamonds and ivory.

Nobody knows for certain the route taken by these ox-drawn wagons and the black troops that guarded their burden. That they crossed the River Zambezi is known; that they slaughtered all the inhabitant s of a mission station to prevent report of their passing is suspected; but just where the treasure was finally

concealed has never been discovered - and for the most terrible of reasons.

When the commander of the "impi" saw the long line of hills that seemed to bar further advance, he called a halt. He had been given secret orders by Lobengula. Two hundred warriors were selected. The other 800 made camp. The 200 marched on towards the hills and the treasure went with them. Many of these men had worked at one time or another in the diamond mines at Kimberley. They were experienced at tunnelling and blasting through rock.

Just how long the detached party was absent is unknown. Atlast, however, the straining eyes of the "impi" commander discerned the line of black warriors returning from a narrow valley that cleft the hills. The wagons were no longer with them. Lobengula's treasure had been laid in its chosen place. This was the moment the "impi' commander had waited for. Swiftly he issued his orders to the 800.

The detached party, whose task had been to bury the treasure, approached the camp. Each of them knew where the black tyrant's treasure lay. That they should live with such knowledge was no part of Lobengula's plan.

What followed was not a battle but a massacre. In a few brief and blood - stained minutes, the life was speared out of 200 of Lobenula's warriors, for no other crime than that they had carried out his orders. Soon, the vultures were wheeling and animals far off had scented blood.

So Lobengula made certain that no one should reveal where his treasure lay. But this precaution alone did not satisfy him. He had a complete contempt for human life and his mind could not rest whilst any of the men who had made the journey lived.

Though the 800 were ignorant of its resting-place, they knew at least the route along which the treasure had been taken. They might hint at this knowledge to others or given the time, use it to unearth the vast hoard. They received the same welcome that they had given their 200 comrades. So 1,000 men died because of one man's greed.

But it was all to no purpose. In a battle with the British that followed shortly, the Matabele were defeated. Lobengula surrendered his capital, Bulawayo, and fled. Within a few weeks, with never another sight of his hoarded possessions, he died of fever. He took his secret with him.

Where Lobengula's treasure lies no one knows. It is buried under the earth or hidden in a cave somewhere in the wastes of the central African bush. No man guards it or keeps it company - except perhaps, the ghosts of a thousand warriors who died for it.

Reproduced from HOW AND WHY City Magazines Ltd.

CARROT CREAM SHAKE

Ingredients :
Medium sized carrots - 3
Milk - ½ litre
Sugar - 1 cup
Cashewnut and Badam (Chopped) - 10
Cardamom - 2 to 3
Cashew Paste - 3 tablespoons

Method : Peel, wash and cut the carrots and make into a paste using the mixer. Extract its juice completely and filter. Allow the milk to boil and add cardamom and sugar. Allow the milk to thicken well. Add the carrot extract and the cashew paste to the milk. Allow it to boil well. Top it up with chopped cashew and badam. Serve hot or cold.

- S. Sreenidhi, Std.IX, Balalok Matric Higher Sec. School, Chennai

CHOCOLATE - HONEY ICECREAM

Ingredients :
2 tsp of milk powder
3 tsp of sugar
2 tsp of honey
Hot water
Chocolate mixed with cream for garnishing.
Some cherries.

Method : Take milk powder and sugar in a glass. Add little hot water and mix it well. Put this in the mixer and run for bubbles. Add honey. Refrigerate and garnish it with the cream chocolate and one cherry before serving.

- Vidya Sashikumar, Std. IX, Meghmala Roy Education Centre, Kolkata

DELICIOUS DESSERTS!

CARAMELLED NUTS

Ingredients :
Sugar - 1 cup
Water - 1 cup
Walnuts - 1 ½ cups (cut into small pieces)

Method : Mix water and sugar in a bowl. Then boil it. Stir constantly until the sugar dissolves. Boil the syrup until it turns golden brown. Remove from the oven. Add the walnuts and coat the nuts with the caramel. Set aside until it cools down and enjoy.

- Sumana Vardhan, Age 9, USA

SPICE OF LIFE

KITCHEN what is a kadai and what is a tawa?

CUISINE what is the speciality of a Mexican cuisine?

HEALTH are fast foods healthy?

NUTRITION which is more nourishing - rice or wheat?

aunty TARLA DALAL

serves the main course in the JUNE 2003 issue of your favourite magazine!

Send in your questions to

Star Rendezvous
C/o Gokulam
Kalki Buildings, 47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 097.

- **Last date : 22.04.2003**
- **Only one question allowed**
- **Write only on a postcard**
- **Mention details of your name, age, class and school. Also give your residential address.**

No Recipes please!

AN ERROR

I have noticed an error on the cover page of March 2003 issue. Sachin is signing his autograph to a young fan with his right hand. Actually Sachin always signs with his left hand. I, being a fan of the game and specially of Sachin, request you to avoid such errors.

- V. Vignesh, Chennai

I was surprised to see the cover page of *Gokulam's* March 2003 issue. Although Sachin is a right-handed batsman, he always writes or signs with his left hand. I have seen him do this on television. This is for your attention.

- Sanjay S. Prakash, Chennai

Dear children,

We profusely apologise for this grave mistake and thank you children for having brought it to our attention.

This only goes to prove that children are extremely observant and, as adults, we do miss out on very many details.

We shall certainly be more careful in future.

- Editor

Beautiful and Colourful...

I have a request. Why don't you publish the name of the child who has received the maximum number of certificates?

- R.S.Prakash, Hubli

Dear Prakash,

We do publish it every year - either in July or August. We have to wait until the one year period gets over in June.

- Editor

Sorry, I did not write to you earlier. The article 'A child's prayer for peace' (Jan - 2003) was extremely good. The February issue too was great.

- Akhila Valsad, Gujarat

I may at times forget to complete my school homework but I'll never forget to read *Gokulam* every month.

- K.Sai Brinda, Hyderabad

I read the Scooby Doo series and the Scooby Doo quiz. They were really superb! The pictorial article on 'Dogs' was very informative. I learnt a lot from it.

- R. Steffi, Tirunelveli

Gokulam always maintains high stan-

dards. My standard of English has also improved. For this, the credit goes to *Gokulam*. Moreover, columns like grandma worm and hello doctor, help to solve a lot of problems that we young children face.

- D. Mohan Arvind, Chennai

I do not find many tiny facts (snippets) being published these days. Please do look into this.

- R.V. Selva Kumar, Amaravathi Nagar

Gokulam is very beautiful and colourful these days. Congratulations!

- M. Ram Prabu, Theni

The column 'countries and their children' was very informative and also useful. We learnt a lot from it. Do continue to publish it.

- R. Sajini, Mumbai

I suddenly seem to be missing 'Balu, the bully'.

- Swathi Priya, New Bombay

The feature 'fascinating flora' and the serial 'the man with no name' are very interesting. Thanks for publishing my game in the February issue. I am very happy.

- S. Sujit Kumar, New Delhi

Harry Potter (HP) Mania

I am relieved to know that atleast one magazine in India is giving an exclusive cover story on HP. I am sure it thrills thousands of other fans like me to read these thoughts on HP. Do continue to promote this eagerness.

- R. Muthuramalingam, Coimbatore

I loved the February issue for the simple reason that of HP. Can you please publish some information about Ms. J.K. Rowling along with her photograph?

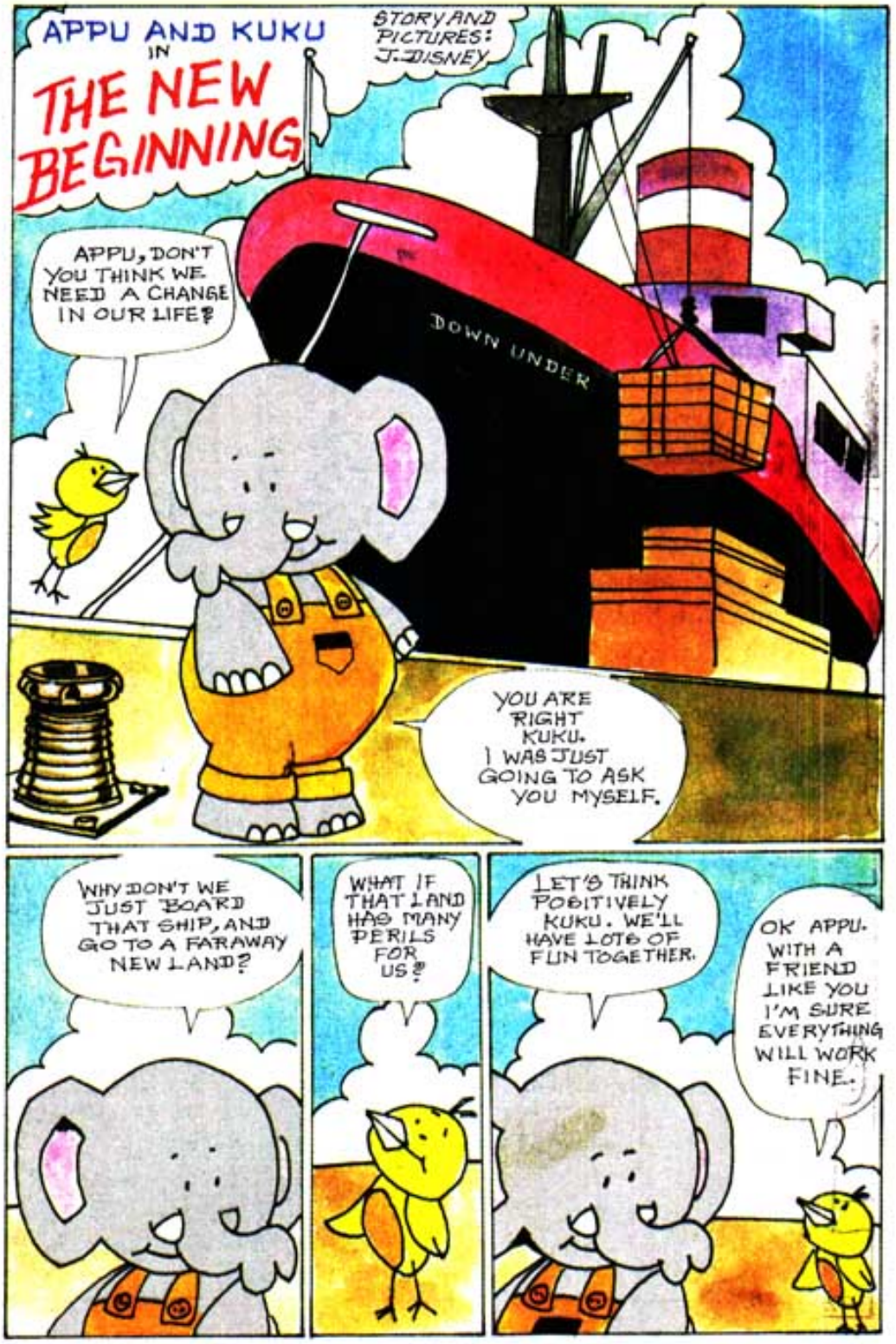
- K. Suganya, Chennai.

Frankly speaking, the cover story HP mania was marvellous. I would like to know more about Daniel Radcliffe. Can you also give us a HP poster?

- J. Karthika, Secunderabad.

The cover story on World Cup Cricket (March) was marvellous. The history of the World Cup is explained beautifully. Please increase the number of pages to over 100.

- S. Prabhakaran, Chennai.


APPU AND KUKU
IN
THE NEW BEGINNING
STORY AND PICTURES: J. DISNEY
APPU, DON'T YOU THINK WE NEED A CHANGE IN OUR LIFE?
DOWN UNDER
YOU ARE RIGHT KUKU. I WAS JUST GOING TO ASK YOU MYSELF.
WHY DON'T WE JUST BOARD THAT SHIP, AND GO TO A FARAWAY NEW LAND?
WHAT IF THAT LAND HAS MANY PERILS FOR US?
LET'S THINK POSITIVELY KUKU. WE'LL HAVE LOTS OF FUN TOGETHER.
OK APPU. WITH A FRIEND LIKE YOU I'M SURE EVERYTHING WILL WORK FINE.

WEEKS INTO THE VOYAGE
KUKU THIS IS AMONG THE BEST DAYS OF MY LIFE.
DROPPED OFF AT THE NEW LAND
HEY MATE! YOU'RE KINDA CUTE. I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYBODY LIKE YOU.
YOU LOOK FUNNY! WHO ARE YOU?
I AM JOEY THE KANGAROO WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I AM APPU THIS IS MY FRIEND, KUKU.
SOON—
WHAT DOES THE WORD KANGAROO MEAN?
I DON'T KNOW!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IN NATIVE LANGUAGE 'KANGAROO' MEANS, 'I DON'T KNOW'.
THANK YOU KIDS FOR ADDING COLOUR TO APPU AND KUKU ALL THESE YEARS

THE TROJAN WAR

Greek mythology brims with accounts of wars and skirmishes among the Gods and Mortals. War and revenge were the phenomena that repeatedly occurred in these descriptions. The Trojan War was a major conflict in which ancient Greece defeated the city of Troy. Most of the knowledge about this war is obtained from epic poems and descriptions given by ancient poets like Homer and Virgil. Today, archeologists believe that the poets blended fiction and history to conjure an untrue and deformed image of the Trojan War, although in reality, it could have been just a minor skirmish. Nevertheless, the war is viewed as an absorbing episode in the ever interesting Greek Mythology.

According to myth, the Trojan War resulted from an incident at the wedding of Peleus, the king of Phthia, and Thetis, a sea goddess. Except for Eris, the goddess of Discord, all the other gods and goddesses had been invited. Eris was offended and to seek revenge, she sent to the wedding, a golden apple with the inscription 'For the Fairest' written on it. Three goddesses - Hera, the wife of Zeus and protector of marriage and women, Athena, the goddess of crafts, war and wisdom and Aphrodite, the goddess of love - each claimed the fruit and a quarrel began.

Paris, the son of king Priam of Troy, judged the contest. Aphrodite promised to have the "Most beautiful woman in the world", Helen, fall in love with Paris, if he adjudged her the winner. Paris followed suite and possibility of a war appeared.

Helen was already married to King Menelaus of Sparta. Paris paid a friendly visit to Sparta and here, Aphrodite fulfilled her promise. Helen and Paris fled to Troy. Menelaus was furious and organized an expedition against Troy.

How the Trojan war took place thereafter has been captured with different endings.

The more popular version is the story of the wooden horse written by Homer. It began after a long and unsuccessful siege when the Greeks built a huge wooden horse and placed it outside the walls of Troy. Many warriors like Odysseus hid inside the horse while the rest of the Greek army sailed away to a nearby island. The Trojans saw the retreating forces and celebrated their apparent victory. They mistook

the wooden horse for a sacred offering from the Greeks and pulled it into Troy. Cassandra, Paris's sister, had warned the army against bringing the wooden horse inside Troy. Apollo once fell in love with Cassandra and granted her the power to foresee the future, but when she failed to return back his love, he cursed her by ordering that no one was to believe her prophesies. The Trojan army hence disregarded her warnings.

At night, when all the Trojan army was fast asleep, Odysseus and his companions crept out of the horse and opened the gates of Troy to let in the Greek army, who had returned from the island. Troy was looted and burnt and Menelaus and Helen were reunited.

Yet another version talks about Helen marrying Paris' brother.

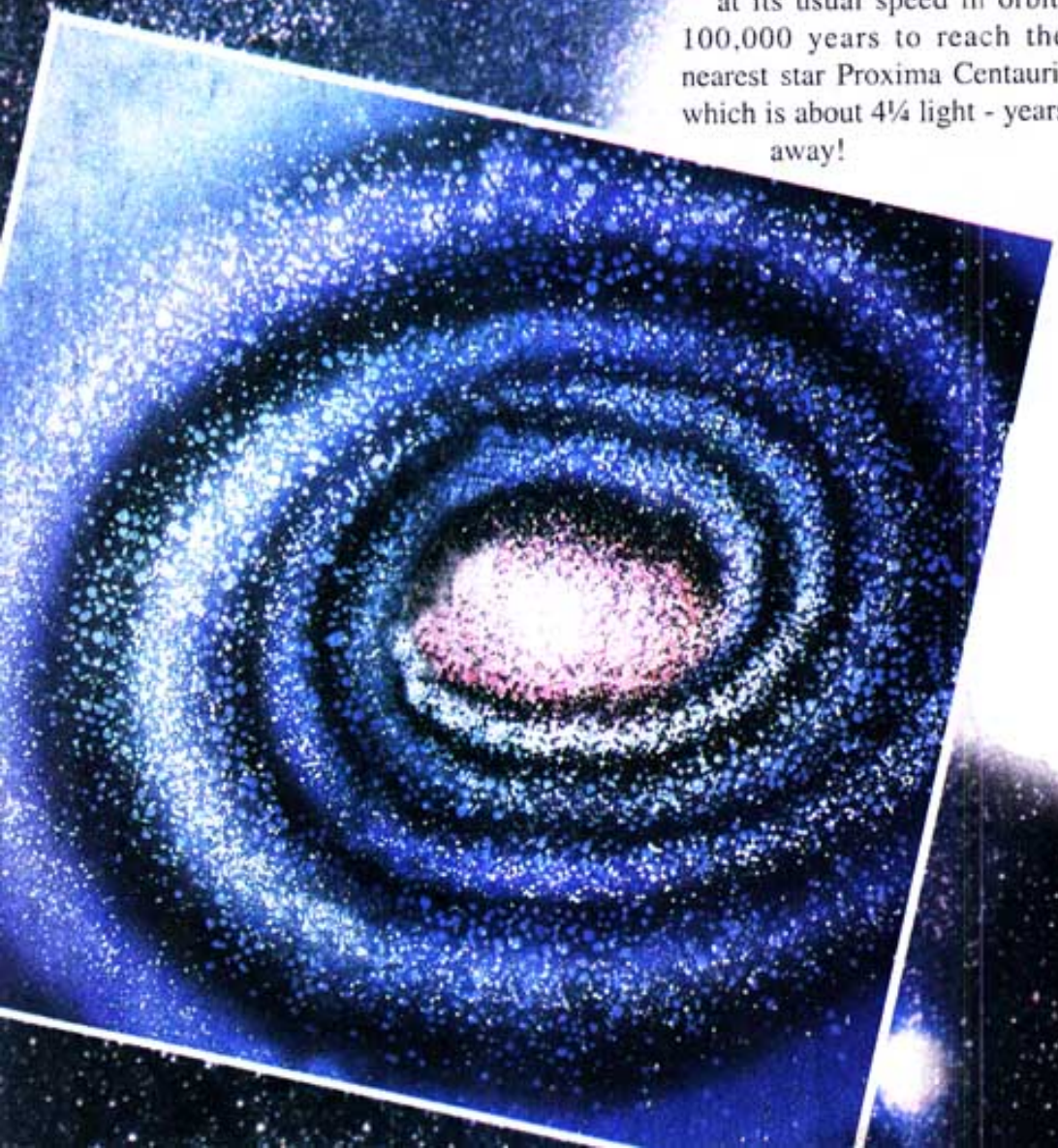
The army of Menelaus that attacked Troy, included great Greek warriors like Achilles, Odysseus, Agamemnon and Nestor. Apart from Aphrodite, most of the gods and goddesses sided with the Greeks. The Greek army laid siege on Troy for ten years, but could not conquer the city. The Trojans were helped by the Ethiopians and the women warriors called Amazons. Achilles, the valiant Greek warrior, defeated memnon, the king of the Ethiopians, and slayed the Amazon queen - Penthesilia. However, he was killed when Paris, guided by Apollo, shot an arrow in his heel. Paris was finally killed during the war and Helen married his brother Deiphobus, who was also killed.

Whatever the myth, excavations have proved that the site of Troy housed about nine cities, each being built over the ruins of its predecessor! It is also believed that the sixth city was the victim of the Trojan War. However, the real truth regarding the Trojan War was burnt along with Troy and may perhaps, never be known.

- P.R. Arun, Std.XII, Christ Nagar School, Trivandrum

Amazing Astro-Facts!

★ It would take the space shuttle, travelling at its usual speed in orbit, 100,000 years to reach the nearest star Proxima Centauri, which is about 4¼ light - years away!



★ Light from the Large Magellanic Cloud, the nearest galaxy, takes 170,000 years to reach the Earth!

★ Light from the Andromeda Galaxy, takes more than 2 million years to reach the Earth!

★ The most powerful star, Eta Carinae in the constellation Carina, became 4 million times brighter than the Sun in the mid-1800s!

★ When the Universe is 100 times older than it is now, all the stars will be dead and the galaxies will be fading!

★ The Plaskett's star, in the constellation Monoceros, has more than 50 times the mass of the Sun!

★ The Dog star or Sirius, nick-named Pup, is 350,000 times more massive than the Earth!

- D. Prabavati, Std XI, Velammal Matric, Chennai.

Source : 'stars and galaxies'

Mr. Cornelius Fudge simply wants to retain his post as the Minister of Magic. Just as many other people, he doesn't want to believe the fact that Voldemort has come back to power. Why do you think this is strange behaviour? In my opinion, there is nothing strange about it.

- C. Aishwarya, Std.IX, SBOA Matric, Madurai.

Of course, the Mrs. Figg that Dumbledore was referring to was the same as Mrs. Arabella Figg who lived next door to the Dursleys. Don't you know that only witches have many cats? So did Mrs.Figg, Dursleys' neighbour!

- N. Vandhana, Std.IX, SBOA Matric, Madurai.

Dumbledore and Voldemort can never be one and the same. Voldemort is a dark wizard while Dumbledore works for the welfare of his fellow-wizards. And, wasn't Voldemort once a student of Dumbledore at Hogwarts?

It is true that Dumbledore and Voldemort have never come face to face. Still, I don't accept that they are one and the same person. Dumbledore could have well killed the muggle born and Harry Potter when they met face to face in school, couldn't he?

As Minister of Magic, Fudge cannot tolerate the rise of Voldemort. This is very natural for anyone. So, what's strange?

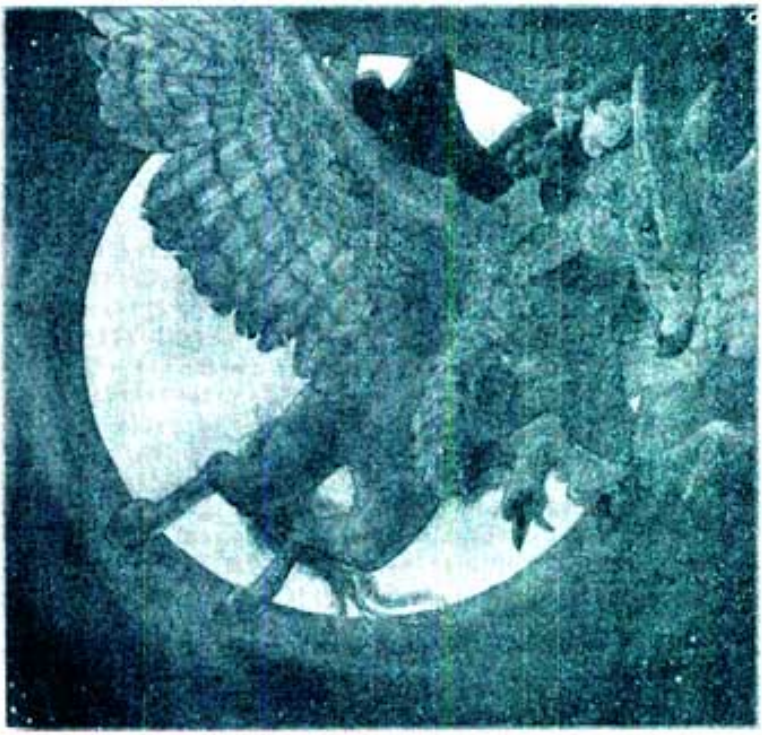
- K. Suganya,
Std.IX,
Jawahar Vidyalaya,
Chennai.

—

We have a doubt. Can anyone clear it?

In book III, **The Prisoner of Azkaban,** everyone is eager to protect Harry Potter because Sirius Black had escaped. The witches and wizards are also eager to give away Sirius to the Dementors. Towards the end of the book however, Sirius Black escapes with the help of Harry, Ron, Hermione and Dumbledore.

Let us go on to book IV - **The Goblet of Fire.** In this book, even though the witches and wizards know that Sirius Black had escaped, they completely forget to take precautions to protect Harry and to capture Sirius Black. Except for Harry, Ron, Hermione, Dumbledore and Molly Weasley nobody else including the witches and wizards are aware of the true identity of Sirius Black. Why is it then that they don't protect Harry?



DEBATES CONTINUE...

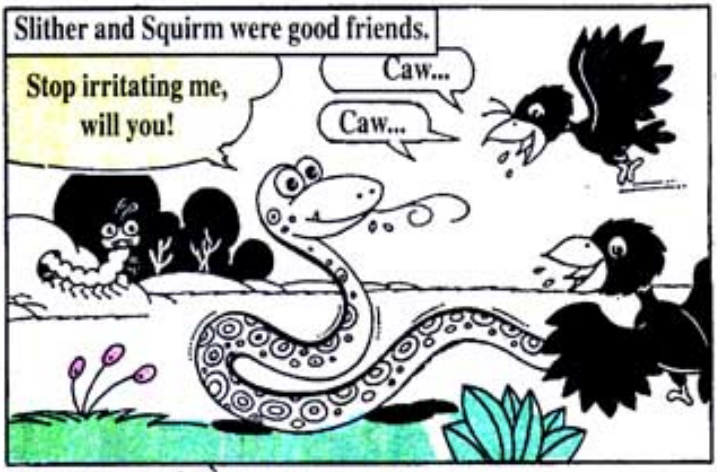
We hope our friends and other Gokulam readers will be able to clear our doubt.

- Deepti Bhat,
Shamini Thiagarajan, Std.IX,
St. Mary's HS, Cuddalore.

SLITHER AND SQUIRM

the two friends

Mohan - C.J. Siby



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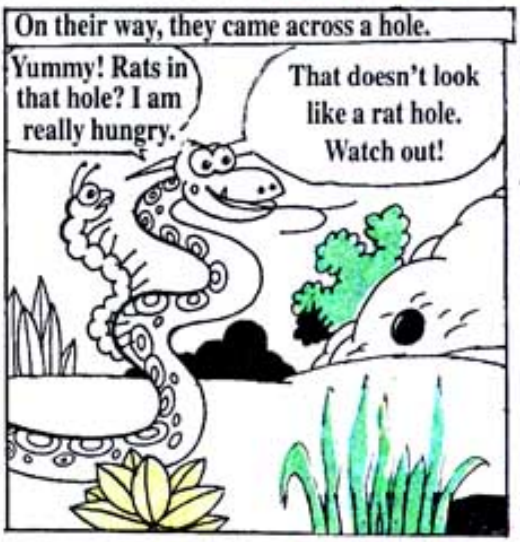

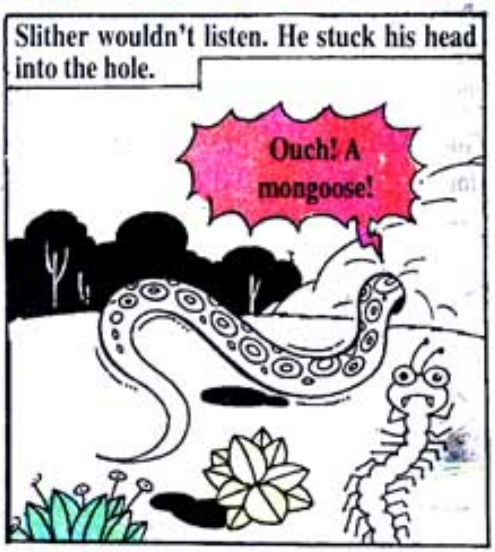

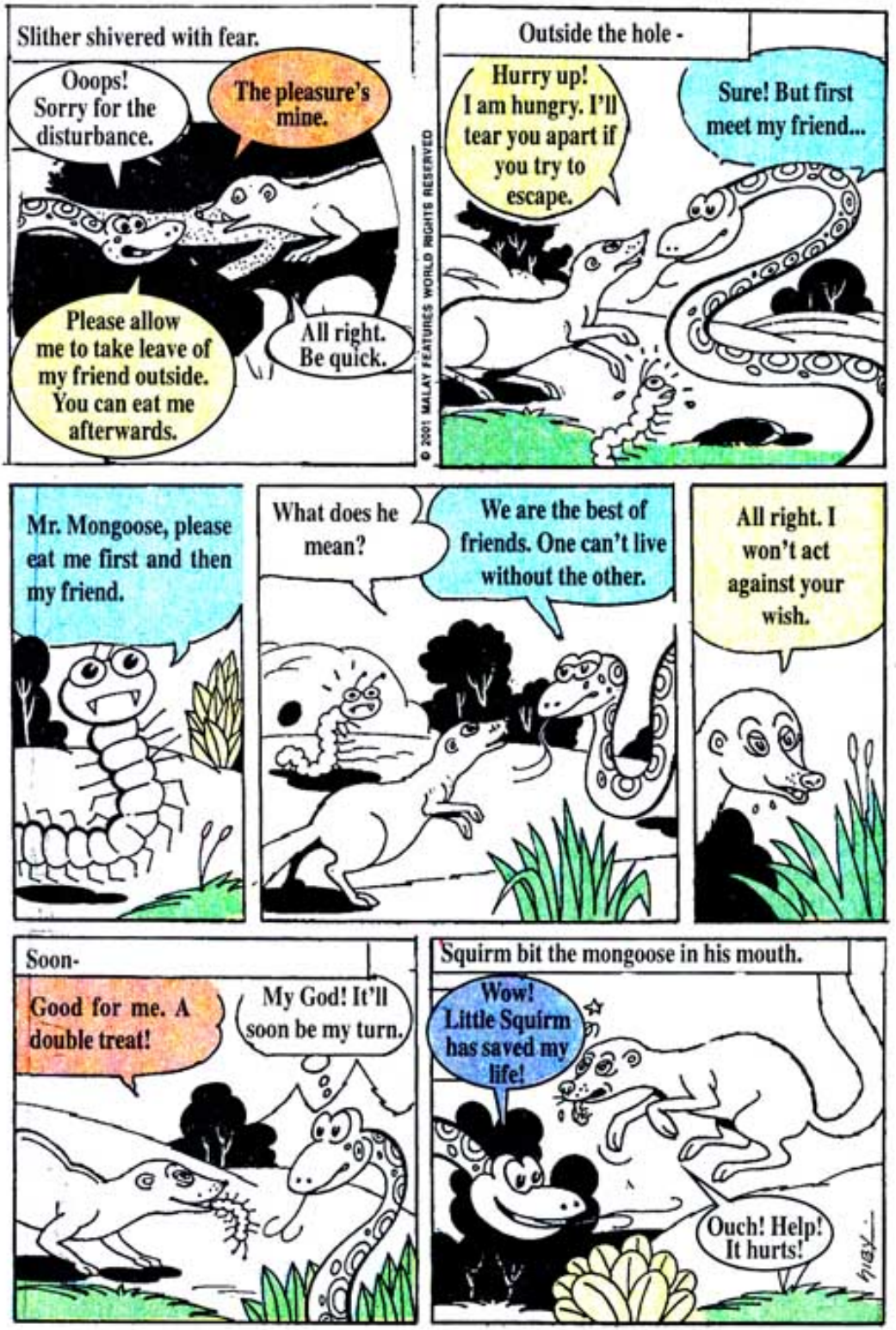
Slither shivered with fear.
Ooops! Sorry for the disturbance.
The pleasure's mine.
Please allow me to take leave of my friend outside. You can eat me afterwards.
All right. Be quick.
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Outside the hole -
Hurry up! I am hungry. I'll tear you apart if you try to escape.
Sure! But first meet my friend...
Mr. Mongoose, please eat me first and then my friend.
What does he mean?
We are the best of friends. One can't live without the other.
All right. I won't act against your wish.
Soon-
Good for me. A double treat!
My God! It'll soon be my turn.
Squirm bit the mongoose in his mouth.
Wow! Little Squirm has saved my life!
Ouch! Help! It hurts!

The mongoose fell unconscious.

Thanks Squirm. I love you!

Come on, let's go.

The friends continued their journey.

Faster Slither. Looks like its going to rain.

Don't you worry.

Oops! A river! I can't swim!

What are friends for? I'll help you.

Aha! So, you can't swim. Good riddens to bad rubbish. Now's my chance.

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Hold on tight. Let's go and catch some fish.

No! No! I'll drown.

But I can't let go off this delicious meal.

Please don't dive.

Slither refused to listen. He left Squirm stranded and dived down.

Help! Help!

Moral : Be careful when you choose your friends.

OUR RIGHT TO INFORMATION

The Supreme court has struck down a law recently enacted by parliament, which said that a candidate standing for elections need not declare his assets or his past criminal record. The Supreme court has said in it's verdict, that the right to information is a fundamental right under our constitution and all citizens have a right to know about the financial status, educational qualification, criminal record etc., of the candidates so that they can choose their representative properly. This verdict may be considered as a big victory for a healthy democracy.

★★★

All eyes were on Himachal Pradesh during the recent elections, since it was a B.J.P. ruled state and because the Gujarat pattern of Hindutva propaganda was carried out there. The Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi himself addressed several gatherings. But what resulted in a land slide victory in Gujarat turned out to be a disaster for B.J.P. in Himachal Pradesh. "It was due to in- fighting amongst party members" commented the B.J.P. leadership. But there was groupism in the Congress too and inspite of several rebel candidates, the Congress scored with flying colours.

★★★

A crude bomb went off in a suburban train in Mulund (Mumbai) killing ten people and injuring seventy. The bomb was placed in a ladies compartment and several police women were among the dead. The hands of a terrorist outfit is suspected, though no particular organisation has so far come forward to claim responsibility. Of course we have to take counter measures to curb terrorism. But that will not yield a permanent solution for which, political sagacity is required. In its absence, poor, innocent lives are lost again and again.

* languishing in jail..

★★★

The central government has decided to form a review committee to assess misuse, if any, of POTA or Prevention of Terrorism Act. In Tamil Nadu, party leaders like Vaiko and P.Nedumaran have been languishing in jails for several months without any trial, charged under POTA. The opposition has been trying very hard to draw the attention of the center in this matter. It is felt that the center's present move will only result in further delays, since the members of the review committee have not been named yet (except the President) and since the committee's powers are only recommendatory in nature.

NEWS ANALYSIS

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The Magazine for Children

THE ART OF READING

Dear Reader,

On a recent visit to a friend's house I was happy to see his daughter deeply immersed in... You know what!

"Say hello to uncle," her father had to goad her twice before she took her eyes off Harry Potter and blinked at me!

"What other books do you read?" I asked.

"Enid Blyton" she responded immediately. "I started off with 'Noddy' as a child and now I am with the 'Famous Five'!"

"Congrats!" I said. "I'm sure in a couple of years you will graduate into 'Mills & Boon' books!"

I also gave some friendly advice to her father. I asked him to encourage his daughter to read books other than Harry Potter and Enid Blyton. Not that these books are not worthy of reading. They are definitely good, but our reading habits should be such that we taste a variety of authors, especially the classical ones.

Tom Brown's School Days, Uncle Tom's Cabin, Huckleberry Finn and Treasure Island are some of the great classics which should be read. Shakespeare, Rafael Sabatini, Alexander Dumas, Victor Hugo and other great authors can be read in their retold versions to begin with.

Harry Potter and Enid Blyton are like Pop Music. The titles and authors mentioned above are like classical music.

You must develop a taste for both! It is important, not for the music or the books, but for you!

- Editor

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